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Inter-Arab Affairs

Paper Cited on Formation of Arab Commando Army

JN1412175390 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] It was reported in Tunis today that the nucleus for an Arab fedayeen army has been set up. The army's task will be to carry out suicide operations against the foreign troops stationed in the Arabian Gulf if Iraq is subjected to aggression, regardless of the magnitude.

The Tunisian paper AL-USBU' AL-MUSAWWAR, which carried the report in today's issue, said meetings were held recently by a number of Arab nationalist parties and organizations which agreed to set up a fedayeen army with volunteers from the majority of Arab states to serve as the nucleus for an Arab fedayeen army.

The paper pointed out that Arab figures met recently in Tunis and agreed on the need to unify to face the exacerbating situation in the Arabian Gulf. They also announced the formation of a National and Pan-Arab Struggle Front [jabhat al-nidal al-watani wa al-qawmi]. AL-USBU' AL-MUSAWWAR reported that the objectives of the National and Pan-Arab Struggle Front is to chase out the foreign troops from the Arab territories and liberate the Arab economy from foreign hegemony.

In a related development, Tunisian citizens announced that they will volunteer to fight on Iraq's side if it is subjected to an aggression by the U.S. and European troops stationed in the Arabian Gulf. The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY correspondent in Tunis said the volunteers told the newspaper AL-SHURUQ, issued in Tunis today, that if war breaks out, pan-Arab duty requires that all sincere Arabs enter the battle arena in defense of the rights, dignity, and future of the Arab nation.

Arab League Statement on Palestinian Expulsions

NC1612173890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1643 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 16 Dec (MENA)—The Arab League has asserted that the Israeli occupation authorities' deportation of four Palestinians for their alleged affiliation with the intifadah leadership in the occupied land contradicts both the fourth Geneva Convention on treatment of civilians under occupation and UN resolutions.

In a statement today, the Arab League pointed out that this deportation is part of a campaign of collective punishment that includes mass arrests and attacks on Palestinians in an atmosphere of racial hostility. Israeli Government members demonstrated this hostility when they called for the expulsion of one thousand Palestinians charged with participating in intifadah activities, when they called for the execution of Palestinian strugglers, and when they allowed Palestinians to be shot at.

The Arab League statement warned that a group of Jewish radicals intends to storm al-Aqsa Mosque on Monday [17 December] to perform religious rituals, thereby defying Muslims' feelings all over the world.

The Arab League strongly denounced the Israeli occupation authorities' continual brutal oppression of the Palestinian people.

The secretariat general urged the international community, especially the Security Council's permanent members, to adopt just measures to implement the UN resolutions concerning the prohibition of deporting the Palestinian citizens.

The statement urged the international community to secure the necessary protection for the Palestinian people under occupation to enable them to attain their national rights in determining their future and establishing their independent state in their homeland under the leadership of the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Arab Radio, Television Federation Meeting Opens

NC1812134790 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Excerpts] Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has asserted that the Egyptian Radio and Television Union dedicates all its resources to the service of Arab media so that the desired goals can be realized. He said the inauguration of the Egyptian satellite channel is a landmark in the field of Arab media through which Egypt is helping to confront the challenges posed by foreign media and to preserve Arab identity and culture.

This came at the inauguration of the general assembly of the Arab Radio and Television Federation in Cairo today. The speech was delivered on al-Sharif's behalf by Engineer Fathi al-Bayyumi, chief of the board of trustees of the Egyptian Radio and Television Union.

The information minister said the Egyptian union is prepared to provide all Arab countries with the necessary equipment to receive Egyptian satellite transmissions so as to enrich the flow of Egyptian programs and news material to Arab countries.

Delegations from 16 Arab states are taking part in the general assembly meetings, which will continue for three days. Eng. Fathi al-Bayyumi is leading the Egyptian delegation. [passage omitted]

At the first session, the conferees elected the seven members of the executive council from Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Algeria, Yemen, Tunisia, and Jordan.

Eng. al-Bayyumi was elected chairman of the Arab Radio and Television Federation for the next two-year session, and Dr. 'Ali 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Khudayri, head of the Saudi delegation, was elected deputy chairman.

Algeria

New Political Party Applies for Recognition

LD1612235690 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] The Social Movement for Authenticity [le mouvement social pour l'authenticite—MSP] is a new political party which has lodged its application for approval with the Interior Ministry today. The MSP focuses its action on three principles: freedom of membership for the citizens, rejection of all forms of segregation, and the unconditional defense of justice at all levels and in all its aspects. According to Mr. (?Babouche), its provisional president, the MSP intends to guarantee to Algerians the free exercise of their rights whatever their philosophical beliefs. The aim of the struggle is the appropriation of the means of work production. Above all, he adds, it aims for democratic power of management, control, and decisionmaking.

Tunisian Trade Minister on Maghreb Common Market

LD1612000190 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] The Committee on Economy and Finance of the Arab Maghreb Union has concluded its extraordinary session in Algiers by signing a draft Maghreb trade and tariff agreement. Radio correspondent Nacer Mousi asked Tunisian Minister of Trade and Industry Mouldi Zouaoui about the basis on which the customs union was founded and whether this will lead to a change in customs laws of the Maghreb countries.

[Begin Zouaoui recording] The creation of the Arab Maghreb Union necessitates bringing the national laws of each of the member countries closer to each other; that is, legislation on pricing, taxes, financial, and other matters.

When our presidents met in Algeria, they decided on a number of stages for the building of a Maghreb unified market, the Maghreb Common Market. They decided to establish a free zone by 1992, for free trade exchange. They fixed 1995 as the date for the establishment of a customs union and the year 2000 for the establishment of the Maghreb Common Market.

This is the first time dates have been fixed, and 1995 and 2000 are as close as tomorrow. This should prompt us to intensify our efforts to get close to each other. But what does the customs union mean? It means that the Maghreb market will take measures to protect itself against the foreign market with a unified customs barrier. Thus when goods enter through Mauritania, Tunisia, or Algeria from foreign countries, they will pay the same customs duties. This makes it incumbent on us to make our laws and tariffs more similar to each other. We must have a unified nomenclature; that is, we must have the same definition for goods, and all customs duties should be the same so that there can be a barrier protecting Maghreb goods from competition from foreign goods. I mean that the Maghreb goods would be subjected to the same duties and competition would be under equal conditions in all the Maghreb counties. [end recording]

Egypt

Mubarak Addresses People's Assembly Joint Session

NC1512163090 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1006 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Speech by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak to joint session of the People's Assembly and Consultative Council at the People's Assembly Hall in Cairo—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate, brother and sister members of the People's Assembly and Consultative Council: At the start of this new session of our legislature, I put on record with utmost appreciation the previous People's Assembly's important achievements in legislation and control in various public work fields during its three sessions. We are bound by duty and loyalty to express deep sadness for the loss of a patriot, a prominent figure in the political arena and legislative field, and a pioneer of learning and knowledge, who gave much effort and devotion for the homeland. His determination and willpower never faltered. He is the late Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub, speaker of the People's Assembly during the previous two sessions. [applause] Brothers and sisters, let us stand for two minutes to pray for the soul of our great departed.

Brothers and sisters: The election of your esteemed assembly to begin a new session is a continuation of the democratic march that will achieve popular participation both in making decisions and in controlling a sound implementation of decisions. This is a practical exercise to uphold the popular will without any attempt to control or change this will, but to protect it from administrative interference. The will of the people is the foundation of all powers. Any deviation from this will or any tampering with its free expression deviates from democracy and distorts the democratic structure that we have chosen as a course for our life and a beacon for future generations. We want those generations to grow in an atmosphere of light and freedom in order to add to our construction with confidence, freedom of thought, and honest affiliation to all pillars of the homeland.

Therefore, I have been extremely eager to ensure a free and neutral atmosphere, both during the election campaign and balloting and in sorting out the votes. I have repeatedly declared that all candidates are sons of Egypt, whether they belong to the majority or minority parties or are independent. No candidate is favored over another, and the yardstick is the trust given by the masses.

Seeking to win the public's trust is a positive action dictated by our national responsibility. If we seek more democracy, how then can some of us show a negativity that removes us from the most dignified forum for democracy, under this dome and in the people's house? A negative person can use different excuses and justifications for his negativity. I believe, however, and I think you agree with me, that positive participation in the various phases of reconstruction is a national duty that no citizen who cares for the future of his country and nation should evade.

Democracy allows choice. Our belief in democracy guides us to the right choice: to be positive and participate actively.

Sisters and brothers: I congratulate each of you very sincerely for winning the trust of the masses. The recent elections clearly demonstrated democracy, reflected in the large numbers of candidates for legislative seats—2,861 candidates in 222 constituencies. The elections were marked by heated competition and were supervised by 2,087 judges. This confirms that the masses insist on positive participation and reject negativity and isolation from the democratic process. To those who cast doubt on the integrity of this assembly's construction, I say that the great responsibilities dictated by our national duty at this critical stage make it incumbent upon us not to waste time and effort in the vicious circles of the arguments that wore out the political arena for decades. These responsibilities make it necessary for us to gain insight into and have a clear vision of our national objectives, as well as to have an enlightened perception of how to obtain these objectives. This does not mean infringing on the opposition's role in the national action arena. We have always encouraged and welcomed this role and called for more positive contributions. Nothing will shake our belief that opposition is an inseparable part of the system. If certain opposition factions seek this separation, they will waive their constitutional right.

We are on the threshold of the 21st century. We are faced with new requirements for building man and society. We are living in an age of changing and developing principles. It is the age of great scientific progress and sophisticated technological advances. It is the age of man's rights, primarily the right to participate actively in politics, to express himself freely, and to lead a dignified life.

This is an age of economic cartels and blocs that protect neighboring entities and help create a greater entity that is more capable of production and competition. It is an age looking forward to building a new world of warm relations instead of cold war; a world of building peace and not preparations for war; a world protecting mankind from weapons of mass destruction; a world of accord and not discord. In this world several people have chosen to change their economic and social course. They demolished walls and barriers, challenging the rigid theories and philosophies as well as heading toward comprehensive transformations to deal with the new realities.

We in Egypt are not isolated from this radical juncture of a new age and world. We cannot stand aloof or be isolated because Egypt has a pioneer historic role in international relations and their structure, and in specifying the course of the international movement. Therefore, our domestic actions provide a solid base that is indispensible for our external actions. Our external role is ultimately designed to serve our domestic construction.

Within this framework, the principal and important role of your esteemed assembly stands out beside the role of the executive power in defining available options and alternatives to achieve the national goals and entrench them in the nation's conscience through the legislation you pass after careful study and comprehensive debate. You are guided in this legislation by the public interest and are committed to objectivity. There can be no pursuit of personal inclination or purpose, nor a rush to achieve narrow individual or factional interests. You represent all the people and express their hopes and aspirations.

The problems we face now and will face in the near future concern every Egyptian man and woman regardless of political or ideological affiliations. Responsibility for confronting these problems is primarily a national one. It is the responsibility of the executive power represented by the government, and of the legislative power represented by the people's representatives. This is the responsibility of both majority and minority.

Therefore, its discussion within a national framework is the only way to arrive at a sound decision. National framework means showing facts objectively and realistically. There is no room for hasty opinion, biased thought, or emotional appeal. There is no benefit in indulging in imagination and theoretical ideas, and ignoring the facts and realities we are all experiencing, no matter how our lives differ. Therefore, I hope and am confident that the new People's Assembly will adhere to the aspirations of the masses which have granted it their voice and confidence. The People's Aassembly must draw up a new system, establish pioneering traditions, and contribute to finding practical solutions to the masses' problems. This must be done through serious and objective studies as well as proposing realistic and applicable alternatives. The masses will thus have greater confidence in their assembly and deputies, and the people will realize that legislative life is not essentially about seats filled by competing candidates who excel in making promises and reviving hopes but neglect objective and realistic work, the sincerity of which the masses feel and the fruits of which they reap.

A deputy loyal to his homeland and his voters is not one who can put things on record or make eloquent speeches, but is one who succeeds in tangible achievements that produce benefits or keep people's interests from being harmed—the people, who are not mistaken in their perception and who do not lose their way. Therefore, the people are always right. [applause]

The current phase of reconstruction in Egypt—and in the whole world—is critical and delicate by any measurement.

The dangers and challenges are great. At the same time, hopes and ambitions are high. We are going through this new phase together. It requires more sweat, effort, speed from us to achieve our objectives, and we must be more daring in knocking on the new doors and exploiting the opportunities available to us for the first time. In brief, this new phase requires a new and daring beginning, and we must get rid of negative habits and obstacles and continue to achieve at a higher and faster rate.

It is natural that the primary sphere of national action we should think about at this new stage is economic progress, because it affects the homeland and the citizen. It is the prop of every development, every progress. It is the endeavor on which we have focused our attention over the past few years.

The starting point in this economic endeavor is the program for comprehensive reform, part of which we have already implemented. We intend to press ahead with this program and bolster it with all of our energy in the coming years in order to fulfill the people's aspirations and to safeguard their interests. You will doubtlessly have a role in attaining this objective and in supervising its implementation by engaging in debates, passing the necessary legislation, and verifying that the executive bodies adhere to the plan and the agreed-upon policy.

The first thing to consider is how to complete the economic liberation we began many years ago when we concentrated on boosting the country's production base. Our purpose was to increase the quantity of Egyptian products, improve their quality, and create many new jobs opportunities to absorb the ever-increasing numbers of job applicants every year and combat unemployment. Unemployment worries me and concerns me greatly because it affects the futures of millions of good sons of Egypt who are eager to serve their homeland and actively participate in construction and progress.

Hence, it is everyone's duty to try his hardest to find radical solutions for unemployment in the near future. This will not happen unless we expand our production capability and encourage the various production sectors to intensify their activity and increase the number of their employees.

This production increase will lead to a substantial increase in exports and a commensurate drop in imports. This means we must improve the trade balance and also provide the local market with commodities at prices lower than those of imported commodities.

We began our practical march toward this objective in 1982 before the term economic liberation became widespread in the world. We confronted many obstacles, notably those over which we had no control, such as the exorbitant increase in the prices of imported commodities—consumer goods, semi-manufactured commodities, and finished products. It was natural that this increase in prices should lead to higher costs for commodities and services. Indeed, it delayed completing some projects—and some of those goods needed the contruction of those projects. This occurred because of the lack of foreign currency needed to buy them at their inflated prices.

I have chosen 1982 as the beginning of implementing this policy, because this date coincided with the date we reconsidered our economic open door policy which began in 1974. After thorough studies and discussions in which the people's representatives participated effectively, we reached the conclusion that we should turn the economic open door policy into a productive open door policy. It was impossible to achieve this transformat on by merely altering legislation and regulations or writing new slogans. It required a massive structuring of the infrastructure without which it would have been impossible to increase and expand production whether in electricity, road building, land transport capacity, railways, transportation, housing, public utilities, and other services. The funds we spent on the infrastructure totalled approximately 60 billion Egyptian pounds.

Thus, the substance of the policy of free economy is to ensure, as much as possible, the appropriate climate to provide all the commodities and services to citizens at an appropriate price, and to enable society to use its maximum potential of manpower. In this regard, it does not matter who provides these commodities and services. It does not matter if he belongs to the public or private sector. This is particularly true because, since we began the free economy program, we discarded bias and favoring one sector over another. We have adopted a clear and unequivocal course based on the fact that both sectors and their resources are considered a wealth for all of Egyptian society. Let every sector come forward to achieve its legitimate goals. Let both sectors have full opportunities to attain any achievements they want. Thus, both sectors will become a twin with equal rights and duties worthy of the protection and care of the state's organs based on legitimate competition among all producers in the interest of the people.

We have no alternative as we enter this new stage but to double our efforts to achieve this goal: to increase production and production capability in order to confront the two basic problems from which our society is suffering—the problems of high prices and unempoloyment—particularly among the segment of the society on which we have spent a great deal in education and training.

To show the size of this problem, it is enough to say that we must provide new job opportunities for 450,000 to 500,000 citizens annually. Greater production is the key to increasing Egyptian agricultural and industrial exports, improving the trade and payment balance, and increasing the strength of the Egyptian pound against foreign currencies. Other than this, any talk about confronting these problems is a work of fiction and an indulgence in slogans. Therefore, I insist on elaborating on these problems whenever the opportunity arises for me to address the people and their representatives.

To be fair, tangible progress has been made in this field during the past few years because we adhered to plans and implemented the comprehensive economic reform program. We must say, however, that there is still a lot to be done if we are going to benefit from the new opportunities now available for national, Arab, and foreign investment. Investment in Egypt has several and relative advantages, be they political and social stability or the government's commitment to protect and insure investments against dangers, as well as its willingness to remove obstacles as long as laws and regulations are observed.

Within this context I invite your distinguished assembly, all official departments, and the public and private sector companies to demonstrate more interest in facilitating investment in Egypt, removing red tape, and providing flexbility and mutual confidence between the investor and the state's specialized agencies. This is because there is common benefit in this and the goal is one.

Specifically I propose that the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council discuss ways to strengthen and deepen the march of economic reform within a certain period of time. Your discussion will result in the approval of an integrated plan which you can call, for example, the 1,000-day plan to free the Egyptian economy. [applause]

I must address the problem of population explosion which is threatening the direst consequences. I repeat, and I am not tired of repeating, that we must discuss this problem of population explosion since the population growth rate is still very high—it is increasing by 1.3 million annually. This means that whatever progress is made in economic performance will be reversed after a few years if the horrible population growth continues at the present rate.

I now want to talk about an issue that I know interests many citizens. It is connected with our economic situation after the relative alleviation of the debt issue. We hope this alleviation will expand to include the civilian debts in one way or another. We are unfailingly trying to achieve this. Allow me to express, on your behalf and on behalf of every Egyptian man and woman, the sincerest appreciation and gratitude to the leaders and peoples of those friendly countries that adopted specific measures to relieve Egypt of the burden of debt. I mention in this connection U.S. President George Bush and the U.S. Congress. [applause] We have been forgiven a sum that would perhaps have reached the amount of $24 billion if we had to repay it. I also mention King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques; [applause] Amir of Kuwait His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah; [applause] His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates; [applause] and Amir of Qatar His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani. [applause]

There are signs that other friendly countries are discussing the possible adoption of specific measures in this context. We are pursuing this objective and hope that the next few months will produce tangible steps that will bolster our efforts to deal with the economic crisis and help us deal more promptly with the economic reform process.

Some citizens are asking about the effects of this relaxation of the debt crisis on the status of the Egyptian economy, and whether it is possible that it will lead to lower prices and higher wages. [applause] To answer this question... [Mubarak changes thought] You do not realize what the situation was like before the relaxation of debts. I know, but am not at liberty to speak about it. It was a difficult situation, leaving one in a position of responsibility unable to sleep. To answer this question—[responding to unheard comment] hey you economist, do it. When you become the ruler do it—honesty requires that all of us realize that the writing off of some of our debts and the repayment facilities we have been given with regard to other debts is a development which does not automatically lead to lower prices and higher wages. Let us be realistic.

The citizens will benefit, directly or indirectly, from the new situation. The economy is expected to perform better in general. The problem of external debts is getting under control. This is a problem that was likely to produce a sharp decline in the economy, a considerable devaluation of the Egyptian pound, and an unprecedented increase in prices.

Over the past few years, the country had to raise between $600 and $700 million every year solely to service the military debts to the United States. In some months we had to earmark over $100 million to service these debts, otherwise, the assistance would be stopped. We were supposed to pay $1 billion in the current fiscal year. These are sums that are very hard to raise when we are striving to provide the public with basic consumer goods such as wheat, flour, and edible oil.

The advantages that have been obtained as a result of this partial solution to the debts problem, however, do not provide us with a surplus that we can use for new expenditures, but we are more able to deal with the current problems.

We used to pay $100 million or $200 million to service the debts and then have trouble buying wheat or edible oil. This was the problem. Amounts such as $100 million used to go for servicing the military debt to the United States alone, not to mention our other civilian debts.

We will be more able to deal with the current problems if we always keep in mind that the way to introduce a genuine and concrete change in the Egyptian economy is through closing the gap between exports and imports in the near future. This is not an impossible goal. Other countries whose circumstances are not unlike ours have accomplished that task.

As long as we import $11 billion in goods and export $4 billion, we will continue to have a debt of $7 billion. If we have the same $7 billion debt every year, we will not be able to pay it back.

A close look at the status of exports and imports will show that despite the slight improvement in the value of Egyptian exports in the past few years, the average value of finished products exports still ranges between $3 and $4 billion per year. In the meantime, the value of finished goods imports jumped from $8 to $11 billion per year. This wide gap between the two figures is partially covered by service exports through revenue from the Suez Canal Authority and the tourism sector, which suffered a setback this year. A considerable portion of the gap remains open, however, since these revenues have failed to cover it. This means a new debt for us, accumulating year after year. We can alleviate the burden of this debt only through increasing growth rates in the two leading sectors of our national economy: the public and private agricultural as well as industrial sectors.

The second national priority in this important phase of our history is the need to move faster in improving and developing Egypt's educational system. This system must agree with and be responsive to economic development and social progress programs. The desired reform in education should enhance our ability to introduce modern technology into various aspects of Egyptian life. I am not necessarily talking about absorbing the most updated forms of complex technology applicable in advanced industrialized countries. I am referring specifically to the patterns that were successfully applied by several developing countries, on the Asian continent in particular.

When we talk about education, we talk also about culture with its various scopes and branches. A society that values culture and the cultured is capable of facing present and future problems effectively and of contributing to the development of human life in a way that brings about more happiness and safety everywhere.

It was Egypt's distinctiveness in the cultural field that enabled it to assume a prominent status at both the regional and international levels over the ages. The Egyptian individual's ability to absorb another culture into his own and achieve positive interaction between them without forgetting his cultural and spiritual integrity is the strongest weapon by which the Egyptian existence can be strengthened in the face of various challenges. Therefore, we must make every effort to bring about a great cultural rennaissance and consolidate the role of art and literature in giving form to the Egyptian life and in forming the citizen's vision of where he stands from the political and social developments and the changing world in which he lives.

We must pay special attention to religious education. This is because a correct religious education keeps an individual or group from resorting to evil and destructive deeds and instills in the young people high ideals and noble values that protect them from committing mistakes that deepen their perception of what is satisfactory to God and is in the interest of the homeland.

We must also pay great attention to deepening the democratic process and consolidating human rights in Egypt. This primarily requires that every citizen should participate in public affairs. There is no democracy without serious and sincere participation in which each citizen can prove his ability to adhere to certain values and traditions and to reconcile his freedom with the freedom of others and his rights with his duties.

Events in contemporary history prove that social democracy does not replace political democracy; rather, it does not prosper and bear fruit without political democracy. They have also proved that a sound society capable of facing the challenges of the age is a society that is not monopolized by a small minority and in which the citizen is judged by his work and performance. [applause]

Democratic development has arrived at the party system and free elections under the supremacy of the law and its safeguards. We must always remember, however, that the party system is not merely names, placards, and slogans but an aggregate of human values based on unity of thought, proximity of interests, and similarity of views on the proper way to promote society. The parties must awaken so that democracy may prosper, and there can be no party awakening without principles and ideas, without a firm commitment to the interest of the people and the supreme interest of the homeland. There must be conscientious awareness that a party is a school for wise political work, an arena for preparing successive generations of youths trained on this work with understanding and conviction and without trading with principles and stands.

Among the national interests on which there is no dispute or argument are the achievement of security and stability in Egypt [applause] and the protection of the people from bloody terrorism threatening the society at its very core, defying the supremacy of the law and endangering the lives of innocent people. In a democratic society there is no single justification for this terrorism, for which there is no explanation except the desire by a deviating minority to commit crimes and create chaos.

Terrorism is a capricious attempt to waste man's rights. Only one who rejects democracy and deviates from society's traditions and values would resort to that attempt.

Using only security to confront terrorism is insufficient. A true confrontation comes through collective action by a society, with all its democratic groupings, facing up to terrorism politically, intellectually, and through the media. It is natural that parties should be at the forefront of institutions that undertake an important role in this context. It is equally natural that parties should not be satisfied with denouncing and condemning terrorism with words alone. They have to face up to terrorism through constant political action and active work among the masses. The responsibilitiy falls on us all and the danger threatens all without exception.

If terrorism aims to shake the state's stability, the state is a system which belongs to all. It is Egyptian society, with its diverse views and intellectual backgrounds, that they want to destabilize. We have brilliant examples of societies in other parts of the world that suffered from terrorism. Political and social powers in these societies joined efforts to confront this destructive phenomenon and chase its propagators by all available methods of public action.

The Egyptian will never hesitate to respond to the homeland's call. We are all willing to sacrifice ourselves for the sake of eternal Egypt. [applause] We the sons of Egypt are willing to suffer and die so that Egypt can live and thrive.

Although we sense a consensus in Egyptian information media on defying and exposing terrorism and refuting its false claims, we, to our deep regret, also sense a twisted sympathy with terrorism on the part of certain writers as well as a mischievous support for its corrupt claims. This is an extreme violation of national commitment and a betrayal of honest writing.

Terrorism is not a form of religious extremism. Extremism and radicalism in religion may reflect man's quest to show commitment to and deepening of religious principles. It may also reflect man's desire to defend certain religious values through zeal or fanaticism. The terrorism we are talking about is the criminal kind. Its clear goal is to destroy the society, demolish its rudiments, shake stability, obstruct progress, and dismantle the democratic and economic structure.

This terrorism is criminal. It does not belong on our national soil or to our national heritage but derives its existence and continuity from foreign forces that have become an international network seeding corruption on earth and providing funds and weapons for its tools and criminal training.

This bloody terrorism will not succeed in achieving its evil goals on our good soil and in our believing society. We are a people who believe in heavenly religion. During the various stages of their growth, our successive generations have been brought up on commitment to religious ideals and performance of duties and rites. We have also lived, and continue to live with unshakeable faith, that religion means mercy, amity, cohesion, and tolerance. Our call for adhering to religious virtues, to good upbringing at home and in houses of learning, and to Almighty God's teachings will not falter. These teachings preach spiritual purity, which is the best food along the journey of life for our sons and youths. [applause]

There is no doubt that the security forces are carrying out their duty in this field with resolve, loyalty, and courage. [applause] They do not hesitate to face any dangers and to sacrifice their lives while performing their national duty. Some of them have died in the line of duty and others, with willpower and determination, are still struggling to defend the security of their homeland and citizens. We send to them all our appreciation, greeting, and respect. [applause]

Dear brothers and sisters: You are living through the domestic situation that requires vigilant work from you and the government, and the will to accomplish in order to clear the national conscience and to assert to the masses that the state's authorities are there to serve the higher interests of the millions. Therefore, there is no doubt that you have followed up on and are following the great events that have happened and are happening in the Arab world. Addressing these events and dealing with them have been tied to an international consensus aimed primarily at safeguarding the principles on which the new world structure is based, now that the cold war era that lasted for 40 years is over and after the efforts of all international camps have been unified to establish a permanent peace that would protect humanity from the disasters of a total devastation by horrible mass destruction weapons and safeguard human civilization and the lives of millions of peoples on all continents.

Brothers and sisters, this is a drastic turning point in man's history. It expresses a new dawn in human bonds among all peoples, both big and small, rich and poor, to achieve the great dreams and nurtured aspirations: To achieve a permanent peace based on justice and to respect the inalienable rights and legitimate interests free from threats, repression, and ideological bias that led the world to a vicious circle of panic and fear of a dark and unknown fate. This is because of constant threats of war and the spread of limited regional wars, the sparks of which could ignite greater wars that might end with annihilation, destruction, and ruin.

Egypt was a forerunner to this great transformation when international conflicts and expansionist ambitions led it to a war in which it scored a great victory through the most precious sacrifices. Egypt hoisted the banners of peace with youthful and confident hands and rose to a situation dictated by the primary human principle: Peace among peoples and good neighborliness. What Egypt achieved by its might, will, and unity was the first light in face of darkness. It was the great step that represented a model example for the first human goal of establishing peace after wars and feuds that lasted for dozens of years, creating thousands of victims and causing huge losses.

We then sought an Arab rebuilding by resuming severed ties in order to forge ahead with a unifed Arab power toward close solidarity, sound economic and political integration, and good exploitation of all scattered potential, with the hope that this path might lead us to achieving a just peace in this volatile region of the world and consequently establishing the Palestinian people's right on their occupied land. More than one Arab conference was convened in various capitals. All visions rightly indicated that the Arab nation had reached the threshold of a new era of solidarity; rapprochement; and unified views, thinking, and action. The situation was corrected, and the Arab League was returned to its normal headquarters in Cairo [applause] by agreement of all parties. We began to prepare ourselves for the next steps, particularly since the Iraq-Iran War was over and after the al-Ta'if accord had formulated a practical plan to end the civil war in fraternal Lebanon and restore the legitimate govenment. International efforts seeking a solution to the Palestinian issue doubled. We exerted incessant and persistent efforts in this field with most countries. We began to prepare ourselves for the next step, and then suddenly something occurred that did not cross our mind and was not expected by anyone in this new and promising climate.

The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait contradicted all principles with which the international community complies and contravened the principles agreed upon within the Arab fold as well as the pledges that Iraq made in recent years. Just one week before the invasion, when I visited him in Baghdad in a bid to mediate between Iraq and Kuwait, Saddam Husayn affirmed to me that he harbored no evil toward Kuwait, would not embark on a military action against it, and that all that he wanted to do was to compel the Kuwaiti leadership to respond to Iraq's stand on commitment to the pan-Arab interests of the Arab nation.

Since this alarming event that shook the Arab land, our major and only concern was to curb the losses inflicted on all parties and to reverse the deterioration in the Arab stand. We believe this is possible only if Iraq withdraws from Kuwaiti lands and does not obstruct the restoration of the legitimate government to this fraternal country, the annexation of which has not been recognized by any country, including those supporting Iraq's stand. [applause] We would have wanted to solve the problems caused by the Iraqi invasion within the Arab household and under one unmbrella, since this is the optimal approach in safeguarding the vital rights and interests of the Arab household. Our hopes were shattered, however, because of the rigid Iraqi stand which contends that annexing Kuwait to Iraq is final, irrevocable, and not negotiable. This blocked Arab mediation efforts, making the quest for an Arab, Islamic, or other solution futile.

This was their final stand, officially conveyed to us and the other Arab states through high-ranking Iraqi delegations. The last of these delegations represented Iraq in the emergency Arab summit, which was urgently called for by a number of respected eastern and western Arab leaders. The first deputy Iraqi prime minister led this delegation. He repeated in certain terms that Iraq was not prepared to discuss going back on its position. His words were clear and resolute, regardless of the results.

That stand disappointed us. It was contradictory to the appeal I sent to President Saddam Husayn immediately before the summit convened. In a verbal message, I asked him to send an authorized delegation to present flexible proposals that would end this painful tragedy.

Iraq made the situation worse when it escalated its threats to the Gulf countries on the same day of the conference, by launching a feverish media campaign against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia similar to that launched against Kuwait, using a mixture of threats and vituperations. Thus, we could not have avoided the course of events—the course which you all know.

At that time, we did not hear about the scenario that was unleashed in recent weeks unsupported by facts. This scenario says that Iraq is prepared to accept withdrawal from Kuwait and was only prevented from doing so by Arab condemnation.

Had this claim been supported by facts and justified, concealing it from us and from the Arabs would have been an unforgivable sin and an incomprehensible shortcoming on a central issue for which an Arab solution is vital.

In this context, I see no need for elaborating on the developments in the situation because you certainly know them well. You have closely followed my statements and my contacts over the past weeks to contain the situation and to avoid its further deterioration, to salvage what has remained of Arab interests, and to provide the minimal acceptable requirements for a peaceful settlement which can remove all the aftereffects of the Iraqi invasion and avert the perils surrounding different Arab states, including Iraq.

It is known to all that it was jealousy for Arab interests, keenness to preserve pan-Arab security, and a desire to protect the Arab nation against the perils of conflict and division which prompted us to adopt the stands we had announced. We will not stop for a moment at the falsities circulated by some people for a reason we do not understand. They claimed that Egypt is taking that stand to settle old accounts and to get revenge against Iraq for stands the latter had taken against Egypt during the years of Arab division—they mean the Baghdad Summit. We are not vindictive because this is against the nature of all Egyptian people. They claimed that Egypt was seeking gains and privileges, that Egypt made its decisions with certain privileges in mind. What a shameless thing to say. [applause] Egypt has never been a state which exploits stands or climbs over the dead bodies of others. Egypt has been and will continue to be God's Kinanah [old Egyptian name] on earth and a guardian of sublime values and principles. [applause, cheers] It will continue to be the self-denying advocator of truthfulness and prosperity. This is Egypt's message and this is its tradition, even if others are offended. [applause]

We have sought to curb the serious repercussions and negative effects of the sudden Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. We declared that we are willing to contribute to the security of Arab states which felt that they are vulnerable to the same threats. It was natural for us to respond to the call of the sister Kingdom of Saudi Arabia by sending two divisions of the Egyptian Armed Forces to participate in defending this dear part of the Arab nation—that secure state with which we have been linked by the strongest ties. God willing, we will continue to honor our pledge to our brother Saudi people and all Arab peoples in the Gulf region, regardless of the challenges and threats. This is the message we have to fulfill, and our pledge is to support our brothers and deter the aggressors. [applause]

Brothers and sisters, I seize this opportunity to extend a greeting, on behalf of all of you, on behalf of the people and myself, to our heroic sons who are stationed in the territory of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia [applause] who right now are watching you on their television screens [applause] and to those stationed in the United Arab Emirates. These sons have faith in their pan-Arab duty and are completely ready to carry out their sacrificial mission for the sake of principle, honor, and creed. A greeting is also due to all members of the Egyptian Armed Forces [applause] who are the shield of Egypt and the Arabs, a security guarantee, and a factor of stability in a region suffering from anxiety and tribulation.

You might wonder perhaps what the situation is like now following the UN Security Council's 11th resolution on the issue, and about the prospects for the near future after the U.S. President declared his desire for dialogue with President Saddam Husayn in order to persuade him to respond to the international will. To answer this question, I state that we hope truthfully and sincerely that Iraq will respond to the peace call and agree to move toward ending this sorrowful page in Arab history and healing the breach which opened in the nation's ranks at this delicate stage of history. May God spare the faithful the evils of war. No one wants war—neither the Arab countries threatened by the current situation, nor the countries who unanimously demand Iraqi withdrawal and the restoration of Kuwaiti legitimacy. The choice has become very clear to the Iraqi leadership. Will it move toward peace and reconciliation with a fraternal people who share Iraq's joys and sorrows, or will it resort to bargaining and attempting to gain time? Time can never impart legitimacy to the illegitimate situation that the invasion created. If this leadership chooses the latter course, it will subject—I repeat, it will subject—Iraq's security and that of the neighboring Arab countries to horrors and dangers whose extent no one can foresee. We pray to the Almighty to inspire the Iraqi leadership, to guide it to the right course and to reason, and to grant it the ability to adopt the courageous decision which puts an end to this suffering and kills sedition after it has spread its negative effects and perils. For its part, Egypt will not hesitate to take every possible measure which may contribute to this pan-Arab goal and salvage whatever can be salvaged of vital Arab interests.

Brothers and sisters. Our minds are open. Our hearts are responsive to anything that restores Arab solidarity, that spares our Arab land bloodshed, and that enables this glorious nation to continue the march of reconstruction and progress. In our efforts to consolidate the unity of Arab ranks and strengthen bilateral relations, we have held several meetings in several Arab capitals during the past few weeks. We have held consultations on what is good and beneficial and what will lay a sound and firm foundation, specifying practical steps for dealing with Arab and international realities.

Toward this end I have held brotherly talks with King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, and with Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Sabah; with the UAE president, the amir of Qatar, and Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman. I have also held in-depth talks with Brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in both Libya and here in the Arab Republic of Egypt. I have also held talks with President Hafiz al-Asad in Cairo and then in Damascus. The aim of these talks was to steer our efforts toward achieving benefits and keeping our nation away from harm, now and in the future. [applause]

I have also exchanged letters with other Arab leaders whose view and advice I appreciate. These include President Chadli Bendjedid, His Majesty King Hassan II, and Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, may God keep him in good health. I would like to express my satisfaction with these talks and contacts. They took place in a good climate permeated with mutual confidence and a feeling of unity for the goal and objective. I hope that this will reflect on Arab action in the near and far future.

My faith increases that the bitter reality we are facing and the experience of the last few years must lead us to a realistic and sincere perception of all the requirements of a cohesive Arab front on the security, peace, political, and economic levels. I will never lose my faith that the Arab nation, with all its capabilities and resources, is capable, with the help of its friends, of securing its present and future in all aspects of reconstruction and development. The Arab citizen will not hesitate to perform his anticipated role in building the new world.

At the end of this review, I have something to say about the Arab situation and its relationship to the international situation. We must adopt the correct perception of the present and the future. We must keep away from whatever spreads discord and disarray in the Arab world. We must strongly support our causes on which we have a consensus and on which there is no disagreement. In the next few months we must double our efforts to support the fraternal Palestinian people's cause. Our commitment to support these people has not shaken. Nothing will divert our attention from moving with them, at their side, until they achieve their legitimate rights and live freely on their land without repression and violence—now that they have declared their willingness to live in peace with their neighbors and since they have renounced terrorism and violence and announced their desire for mutual and simultaneous recognition. This new course will restore hope to every Palestinian and Israeli, will remove the ghost of war and destruction, and will pave the way for a bright and secure future dominated by stability and prosperity.

Hopefully the lessons of the recent crisis will usher in the birth of a strong and proud Arab people; people who are not isolated or inhibited, who are not lenient or defeatist, whose dealings are honest and straightforward, who honor their principles and who are rightous and sincere; a leading Arab people who are mindful of their great past, earnest about building their present and future, and proud of an influential position on the new world map.

Brother and sisters, members of the People's Assembly and Consultative Council, we have a great task ahead in this new legislative term. This task requires, first of all, good planning, concerted efforts, proper allocation of time and effort, and a strong resolve to attain the goal. We need to surmount any obstacle in our path. We need to understand and cope with the concepts of our times. We are faced with the requirements of the 21st century in all aspects of life. We have to keep track of many developments while maintaining the pace of our progress.

We cannot slow our march or we will miss the train of progress; nor can we proceed hastily before we know where we are going for we may lose the trail. We should proceed at the right pace, with good planning, and with proper coordination. We have to devote all our efforts and potential to achieving our goals.

We all have to make essential commitments. The first of these is for all legislative and executive officials to have a clear understanding of the foundation, motives, and goals of our development. This means that we have to define a comprehensive framework for a cohesive strategy applying to all positions of public responsibility. We should not speak of a minister's policy, but of a ministry's policy. [applause]

We should avoid creating isolated islands on the various levels of planning and executive work. We need to create a common ground and a set of common objectives for all public workers on every level.

The local government services in various governorates are not independent governments which may indulge in conflicting individual decisions. [appaluse]

The production decisions should not conflict with the education system, banking system, the exporting procedure, or the labor laws. There must be harmony and coordination between all these factors, for this is the only way for us to cope with the age.

For this purpose we developed a comprehensive vision of the integrated legislative structure which defines rights and duties, treats both public and private action equally, achieves safety and trust, encourages the hesitant, and attracts runaway capital. If active forces are stimulated and artificial restrictions are lifted; if the march of production sets out on a paved road; if all these bright images for which you share responsibility are created; and if we contribute all our efforts, knowledge, and ambition to this integrated strategic framework, I am sure that the atmosphere of progress will be purged of rumors and exaggerated talk about obstacles and restrictions. I am also sure that the enlightened atmosphere will not let the bats of darkness, which hunt around troubled waters and exploit the economic transformation and the legislative gaps, act illegally, cast doubts on reconstruction, or defame honest people. [applause]

Brothers and sisters: I repeat what I have said dozens of times before on different occasions. The state's policy does not protect any corruption. [applause] It will not cover up any political or administrative corruption. [applause] We do not deal with rumors, however, but with facts which inflict no injustice. [applause]

A free press is the best support and the optimal instrument for chasing corruption wherever it may be, without transforming unsupported accusations into a tool of defamation and aggression against dignities and sanctities. Circulating falsities blurs the vision of young people by putting up a black screen, and kills hope and lawful aspirations in their hearts. Equally, bad examples at various public work sites leave their destructive impact. By these I mean the examples of devious conduct, false appearance, and bad behavior in all circles, official or popular alike.

The task of a teacher is not only to teach honestly, but also to build a good human being, to develop his commitment to values and virtues, and to stimulate his sense of belonging to the family and society. The schools, institutes, and universities are not merely buildings, lecture halls, or laboratories. They are institutions in which human beings are being built. The purpose of artists, the cultured, and the intellectuals in our society is to criticize and to build in the meantime.

Brothers, society is a cohesive unit. What is built by the household can be destroyed by the school. Equally, what educational institutions build can be destroyed by cultural and artistic institutions. What is sought by all those through knowledge, principles, and virtues can be shaken by a devious political life or by parties distracted by trivialities and maneuvers to manipulate the minds of the masses from their role in reconstruction and development.

Ladies and gentlemen, you in your venerable assembly, and others in every democratic grouping, are the role models and the beacon—models of responsible work and a beacon of responsible behavior. In this way an enlightened public opinion is formed which supports the march of development and progress.

I am saying this as we contemplate a phenomenon which has infiltrated our society and whose incidents have recurred in more than one public field. It is the phenomenon of conflict among leaders, in a way that exceeds the limits of differences of views to the level of exchanging sharp accusations and infighting in ways rejected by every civilized society. I do not want to relate incidents which have occurred in unionist and sports circles—you have followed news about these incidents with astonishment and worry. If such incidents are byproducts of a past era when feelings had no legitimate outlet, I believe that it is now time to exhort ourselves to stop, consider, and analyze this frightening phenomenon. We must do this in order to obtain a remedy that will provide a proper atmosphere in arenas that must be models in a society undergoing reconstruction. [applause]

Brothers and sisters: Political, intellectual, and cultural leaders in international circles are following our democratic experience with appreciation and interest. The world knows that democratic and stable Egypt makes its own free decisions which are based on principle and on the foundations on which the new world is being built. The Egyptian public has realized this and taken pride in it. There is now no separation between the leaders and the people, or between the masses and the decisionmaking process. Furthermore, the cruel circumstances confronting the Arab region, the economic consequences of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, and the activities of bloody terrorism which decided to exploit these circumstances to harm security and stability have all failed to prevent People's Assembly elections from being held in a climate of total freedom. This was a tangible fact which the masses perceived. [applause]

For this reason, brothers and sisters, the masses are pinning big hopes on their deputies. They hope that their contributions in this new stage will rise to the level of national and pan-Arab responsibility.

The legislative renaissance necessary for the success of the plan to liberate the economy, which I have mentioned needs accurate study, an awareness of the requirements for development, prompt action, and careful supervision of implementation. It is natural for us to imagine the People's Assembly committees turning into working cells capable of fulfilling the demands and aspirations of the masses for an economic and social structure that will lead them to a dignified life.

There is no room to waste time. There is no room to be lax concerning such immense responsiblities. The wheel of legislative and supervisory action cannot stop until we reach the shore of safety.

Let the objective of all of us be to thwart an unjust and tendentious call which wishes to rob our democratic life of its purity and seeks, through talk of despair and doubt, to create a chasm between the people and their representatives.

The people are, first and foremost, the decisionmakers. The people are, first and foremost, the source of all powers. The people's representation is a sacred trust before God and the homeland. You all have taken an oath to safeguard this trust. I am fully confident that this oath will always remain a beacon for your work and will prove that national achievement is the crucial answer to those who fill their time with talk after they have chosen for themselves the spectators' seats. You hold power in the name of the people. There is no power without responsibility, and there is no responsibility without sincere and loyal work.

Our system is based on the separation of powers, the jurisdiction of which has been stipulated in the Constitution, so that the required equilibrium in the state's march is achieved. If the separation of powers means that no power should prevail over another, this also means cooperation between the state's powers without undermining the jurisdiction of any power. These are constitutional principles over which there is no dispute. They enable democracy to be exercised in a way that achieves the people's supreme interests and that safeguards the firmness of the democratic process.

We are all defenders of the homeland because it is the home of the big family. We are all the sons of this homeland. We strengthen its foundations and repel all evils from it. The call for righteousness is always capable of defeating falsehood. The call for righteousness is the search for truth without falsehood. O God, guide us to become advocates of righteousness and defenders of truth. O God, guide us in the moments of choice to express truth and chastity. O God, guide us in moments of testing to restrain the soul's ambition with faith, purity, and determination. God does not renege on his promise. God may requite each soul according to its deserts. And verily God is swift in calling to account. [Koranic verse] May God grant you success, and peace be with you.

Coverage of Algerian President Bendjedid's Visit

Bendjedid Arrives in Cairo

NC1612182990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1805 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 16 Dec (MENA)—Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid and his delegation arrived in Cairo from Beirut this evening for a one-day visit. He will hold talks with President Husni Mubarak on the latest developments in the Gulf region, the prospects for a peaceful solution to the crisis, and the prevention of a conflagration there.

President Mubarak met Bendjedid at Cairo airport and accompanied the Algerian president to al-Qubbah Palace where Bendjedid will stay.

The delegation accompanying President Bendjedid includes Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali and Mohamed Sahnoun, the president's adviser for diplomatic affairs.

President Bendjedid's visit to Cairo is part of a tour which has also taken him to Jordan, Iran, Iraq, the Sultanate of Oman, Syria, and Lebanon to discuss ways to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis.

This is Bendjedid's second visit to Cairo. The first visit was in August when he attended the Arab Summit Conference held right after the Iraqi forces' invasion of Kuwait.

Egypt and Algeria restored diplomatic relations in November 1988.

Gulf Developments Reviewed

NC1612192090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1855 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 16 Dec (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid held a meeting at the al-Qubbah Presidential Palace this evening. They reviewed the latest developments in the Gulf region in light of the consultations conducted by the Algerian president in Jordan, Iraq, Iran, the Sultanate of Oman, Syria, and Lebanon in hopes of working out a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis.

President Mubarak hosted a dinner banquet at the al-Qubbah palace in honor of the Algerian president and his delegation.

Joint News Conference Held

NC1712130090 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1102 GMT 17 Dec 90

[News conference by President Husni Mubarak and Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid with unidentified correspondents in Cairo on 17 December—recorded]

[Text] [Mubarak] I take this opportunity to welcome my brother President Chadli Bendjedid, president of friendly Algeria. I have good relations with President Chadli, and over the ages the peoples of Egypt and Algeria have had strong ties.

The visit of the brother president is for consultations over the current situation in the Gulf region. We are looking into, looking for, or seeking methods. There are no initiatives on the table, as some may speculate. We are simply looking for a way to avert catastrophe; if war breaks out, it will be destructive for an Arab country and the Arab nation.

We hope to find something that is acceptable to the various sides and that ensures the return of Kuwait. We hope this would restore harmony among the Arabs and avert any sabotage of, or strike against, a sisterly country such as Iraq. Thank you.

[Bendjedid] I would like, on the occasion of my visit to sisterly Egypt, to start out by conveying the regards of the Algerian people to their brothers and friends the Egyptian people, led by my brother and friend President Mubarak. Our meeting was a working session and was devoted to exchanging views. The effort in which Algeria is currently engaged is simply an attempt to assist Arab and international efforts to resolve this serious problem which is now called the Gulf crisis. Algeria's position has been clear and unshifting. We have declared our position since the events began, and it has not changed. We urge respect for the recognized borders as stated by international law. Algeria is part of the international community, and it respects and defends it.

In view of the seriousness of the situation, Algeria has made certain efforts. Algeria has not been asked by any party to engage in these efforts. Algeria's efforts were motivated by its desire to find a peaceful solution to this serious crisis.

[Correspondent] [question indistinct]

[Mubarak] Actually, we have not yet found a way for a solution. We are holding consultations and looking into many ideas. President Chadli has had a grand tour of Jordan, Iraq, Iran, the Sultanate of Oman, Syria, and Lebanon. He is here as part of this tour and may afterward go to Libya and Tunisia. The hope is that we may reach a formula to avoid war for war is a horrendous, destructive, and lethal word, a word that we wish to avoid. So far my brother the president and I have not yet formed a general idea, but we are seeking a method, and this cannot evolve except in consultation with all parties concerned.

[Correspondent] [question indistinct]

[Bendjedid] I do not want to add to what my brother the president has said. Algeria is making some attempt, some effort to contain the problem, for it is a serious problem that threatens not only the Arab region but may also cause the situation to deterioriate even on the international scene. We have no specific program to deal with, nor do we have any right to seek compromise at the expense of other people. Our efforts are devoted to narrowing the points of view in the hope of convincing the parties concerned of the need to find an Arab and international peaceful solution. This is the objective and the basis for my current tour.

[Correspondent] President Chadli, [words indistinct] after Iraq's rejection of dialogue with the United States and its refusal to send its Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz (?to Washington)?

[Bendjedid] There has been no rejection of the dialogue. On the contrary, my own guess is that.... [Bendjedid changes thought] I would not say that there has been any rejection by any party. What is being discussed is how to hold the dialogue. Our current effort is to find out the conditions necessary for holding that dialogue, the Arab dialogue in the first place.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency President Mubarak: [words indistinct] pan-Arab efforts toward finding a peaceful settlement to the [words indistinct] principled view [word indistinct]?

[Mubarak] I cannot say... [Mubarak changes thought] that the general view, our view as an Arab nation, or the entire international view is one that calls for the withdrawal from Kuwait and the return of legitimacy. This is perhaps the issue that Brother President Chadli is consulting about so that we can find a way out. I do not believe there is any other objective.

[Correspondent] [question indistinct]

[Benjedid] No, not really. I am still convinced that in view of the common destiny of the Arab nation, regardless of the difficulties and complications of the problem, we have to take into consideration that some other organizations—international and others—if I may say so, have entered into the Arab scene and are participating in the decision to resolve this issue. But it is my hope that through the intra-Arab dialogue we will reach some kind of a nucleus for solving the problem. Of course, such a solution cannot be final unless we take the international arena and resolutions into account. The effort we are exerting falls within the context of facilitating matters for everybody, for us as Arabs in the first place and for the international arena as well.

[Correspondent] [question indistinct]

[Bendjedid] I want to complete what the brother journalist said regarding the [word indistinct]. Of course, every country has the right to its own viewpoint on how it understands the problem could be resolved, but Algeria believes it is still possibile to try to sound things out and to endeavor to reach a rapproachement in order to put the problem in its proper context, taking into account the UN Security Council resolutions.

As for my visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, it is planned, though no date has been specified yet. This is my first tour, and it is very possible that I will meet the custodian of the two holy mosques in the next few days or weeks to discuss all these aspects and the prospects for bringing the views of the parties concerned closer together, in the hope that we will find a flexible, realistic, and logical formula and way to remedy the Gulf issue.

[Correspondent] [question indistinct]

[Bendjedid] Frankly, I do not (?work) on the basis of the Palestinian issue. But I say that we believe in political linkage. As for the organic linkage, I believe it is not a logical or objective approach because the Gulf issue is basically an inter-Arab issue, while the Middle East problem or the so-called Palestinian issue is one between the Arabs, Israel, and its allies.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency President Chadli: During your visit to Iraq, did President Saddam Husayn [words indistinct] withdrawal from Kuwait?

[Bendjedid] My answer will not be like the question. I personally believe, in view of the long dialogue I had with President Saddam, that there is still a possiblity of solving the Middle East [as heard] issue peacefully.

[Correspondent] In view of your tour of [words indistinct] could take the initiative?

[Bendjedid] Our efforts show Algeria's interest and concern over this issue, and the Arab nation—including Algeria—must move and do its utmost to avert a catastrophe, both for the Arab world and the world in general.

[Correspondent] There are press reports on an Algerian initiative [words indistinct] in exchange for guarantees on not attacking [words indistinct]....

[Bendjedid interrupts] We did not make a statement to that effect, nor did we get into details—this is part of the general solution for the problem.

[Correspondent] In your opinion, Your Excellency President Mubarak, what is the next step?

[Mubarak] Next step for a solution? It is absolutely necessary that we not despair of a peaceful solution, and that we exert our utmost efforts as an Arab nation and an international community until the last moment because a peaceful solution is possible. I hope we will be able to reach it on the basis of justice so that we do not get into the labyrinth of war and fighting.

[Correspondent] [question indistinct]

[Mubarak] No, no one among us wants war. We do not want war, and neither does any country. I do not believe Iraq, the United States, or Saudi Arabia wants war since war is a destructive thing that exhausts people and resources and leads to endless differences. We hope there will be no war, and we hope we will reach a just solution, the return of Kuwaitis to their country, and the restoration of legitimacy, for this is the best option. I cannot discuss alternatives, but I say that I hope we will not reach the state of war. Thank you.

Bendjedid Departs for Tripoli

LD1712151890 Algiers APS in Arabic 1447 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 17 Dec (APS)—Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid left Cairo today at the end of his visit to Egypt where he had talks with Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak on the current Arab situation in general and the development of the Gulf crisis in particular. He was seen off at Cairo International Airport by President Mubarak.

Bendjedid will proceed to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and then to Tunisia.

4th Armored Division Departs for Saudi Arabia

NC1812110790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0932 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 18 Dec (MENA)—The first units of the Egyptian 4th Armored Division bound for Saudi Arabia left Cairo this morning on their way to that country where they will will join the Egyptian troops already stationed there. The troops have been committed in implementation of the resolutions passed by the Arab

Summit held in Cairo last August as well as to bolster the defensive abilities of the Gulf countries.

Senior Saudi military officials are expected to welcome the Egyptian troops upon arrival.

'Abd-al-Majid Calls for 'Arab Security System'

PM1712134590 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 Dec 90 pp 1,4

[Unattributed report: "'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: 'We Call for Arab Security System Stemming From Our Political Will'"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Bureau—Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has called for an Arab security system. Such a system, he said, is desirable; any security system drawn up outside the region is bound to fail.

In an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid emphasized that pan-Arab security must emanate from within the Arab nation, must reflect its convinctions, and must reflect a political will without which it would be futile to talk of pan-Arab security.

He added: The claim that appeasement governs our attitude toward one state or another is not true because there is no room for appeasement in foreign policy; that applies to the rejected claims made about our precrisis relations with Iraq. President Saddam Husayn imagined that he could contain Egypt within the Arab Cooperation Council, but he miscalculated. Tariq 'Aziz rushed to the Soviet Union to try to prevent it voting in favor of the West, and in doing so he relied on the friendly relations which existed between Iraq and the Soviet Union in the past; but the Soviet Union was the first to support Security Council resolution 678.

He stressed that Egypt harbors no hostility toward Iraq or its people and recalled Egypt's support for Iraq in its war with Iran.

On the Palestinian cause, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said: There is no need to mention the sacrifices made by Egypt for that cause. Undoubtedly there were ups and downs in its tackling of that issue. Naturally, differences of opinion could occur on it, but such differences should be dealt with in a civilized manner without us accusing one another of treason, subservience, or anything like that.

He added: The method Saddam Husayn is trying to use in dealing with that issue is very strange, and its aim is to reshuffle the cards. We must first put an end to the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait because achievement of that objective would facilitate settlement of the Palestinian question.

He said the two issues were treated differently at the Security Council, but he believed that once the Gulf crisis was over the Palestinian question would be given special attention by the Security Council. He stressed the need for an international conference on the Palestinian question, saying that the problem of talks between Israel and the PLO is not impossible to solve and some understanding could be reached on that.

On the Bush initiative, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that the initiative was a legitimate U.S. attempt to solve the problem peacefully. He added that Washington announced willingness to receive Tariq 'Aziz because Iraq had called for a dialogue. He also noted that the U.S. President announced his initiative on the talks after Security Council Resolution 678 was passed. That was the natural thing to do, he said, because the situation is serious and the United States is a democratic country with numerous currents which he wants to satisfy.

Leaves for Brussels Meeting

NC1712080190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0620 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 17 Dec (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Cairo this morning en route to Brussels for a visit to Belgium that will last for several days. While there, he will chair Egypt's delegation to the meetings of the fifth session of the Egyptian-European Cooperation Council which will open in the Belgian capital on 18 December and last for two days.

In a predeparture statement, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that during the visit the fourth protocol organizing financial and economic relations between Egypt and the EC for 1991 will be signed. He added that he will also jointly meet with the foreign ministers of the 12 EC member states to discuss the various international and regional issues of common interest—particularly the Gulf crisis—in the wake of the EC's recent resolutions. The discussion will also deal with ways to support Egypt in its talks with the IMF on the Egyptian debts, he added.

The foreign minister noted that he will meet in Brussels with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to discuss the latest developments in the Gulf following U.S. President George Bush's initiative and Security Council Resolution 678.

Concern Over Temple Mount Conveyed to Israel

NC1512142490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1350 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 15 Dec (MENA)—Today Egypt expressed to Israel its extreme anxiety over reports that a Jewish extremist group calling itself "The Temple Mount Faithful" intends to enter the al-Aqsa Mosque premises on 17 December in order to conduct religious rites there.

The Egyptian Foreign Ministry contacted the Israeli Embassy in Cairo to draw its attention to the possible dangerous consequences of such an act by the Jewish group in question.

In this connection, Egypt called on the Israeli Government to adopt the measures necessary to prevent this action in order to avoid its possible undesirable consequences.

Official sources have stated that Efrayim Dubek, Israeli ambassador to Cairo, has denied that the Israeli Government intends to allow this group to carry out its intentions.

Israel's Expulsion of Palestinians Rejected

NC1612161190 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] An official Foreign Ministry spokesman announced that Egypt rejects the Israeli Government's decision to deport four Palestinians from the occupied Gaza Strip.

He said this step indicates the Israeli Government's intention to reinstate its policy of deporting Palestinian citizens, which denies the Palestinians' rights and blatantly violates the Geneva Convention on treatment of civilians under foreign occupation. He asserted Egypt's conviction that such oppressive measures by the Israeli Government will not deter the Palestinian people from continuing the intifadah and resisting the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories in the West Bank, Gaza, and Arab Jerusalem.

He urged Israel to stop implementing this policy and to move toward a peaceful settlement of the Palestinian problem through negotiations between the two parties to the conflict based on Security Council resolutions and the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, foremost of which is the right of self-determination.

Palestinians Praise Stand

NC1612145990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1335 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 16 Dec (MENA)—[Palestine's ambassador in Cairo] Sa'id Kamal said that President Husni Mubarak's speech to the People's Assembly yesterday was an assertion of Egypt's continued pledge to support the Palestinian cause.

In a statement to MENA, he noted that President Mubarak once again demonstrated his insistence on actively pursuing peace efforts.

The Palestinian ambassador in Cairo referred to President Mubarak's statements last Wednesday in which he asserted that Egypt is the Palestinian people's greatest supporter of their legitimate national struggle. Kamal noted that this indicates clearly to anyone concerned in both the Arab and international arenas the importance of reviving the process of Egyptian-Palestinian joint action as soon as possible.

He stressed that Egypt's stand is compatible with the Palestinian leadership's call on 5 December to hold consultations and contacts with all Arab leaders to unify Arab position and interests.

Tourism Minister Denies Report of Resignation

NC1512102090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0935 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 15 Dec (MENA)—Tourism and Civil Aviation Minister Fu'ad Sultan stated that the report published today by AL-WAFD paper about his resignation is not true.

In response to the paper's report, he said that he has not resigned and that he is carrying out his government duties as usual.

Morocco

Trade Unions Issue Joint Communique on Strike

LD1512141490 Rabat MAP in English 1226 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] Rabat, Dec. 15 (MAP)—The General Union of the Workers of Morocco (UGTM close to the Istiqlal Party) and the Democratic Labor Confederation (CDT close to the USFP [Socialist Union of Popular Forces]) Saturday circulated a joint communique in which they said they had as early as Thursday drawn the attention of the government "on the fact that resorting to intimidation and represssion to frustrate the general strike could have grave consequences the government is fully answerable for."

The two trade unions had called on their members and subscribers for the observation of a general strike on December 14.

The communique estimates that the strike was observed at an 80 percent rate up to Friday midday and this shows, according to the two trade unions, "the unanimity of the working class on the refusal of the government policy and the poor conditions" the working class is living in.

The two trade unions also said that "we shouldered our responsibility and we have seen to, by taking all necessary measures and giving directions (to their subscribers), the fact that the strike be observed in calm, peace, discipline, awareness and responsibility," the communique said.

Consider Strike Successful

LD1612213890 Paris International Service in French 1830 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Excerpts] The two Moroccan trade union organizations, the Democratic Confederation of Workers [CDT] and the General Union of Workers of Morocco [UGTM], held a joint news conference in Rabat this afternoon. At the news conference, which was well attended, they affirmed that Friday's general strike was a total success. The unions consider that the government does not have the will to satisfy their demands. Farida Moha:

[Moha] Backing up their statements with details on the negotiations with the government, on the reasons for the failure of these negotiations, and on the measures laid down for the workers by the trade union organizations during the general strike—that is, not to use strike pickets, not to hold demonstrations, and to remain at home—the leaders of the CDT and UGTM indirectly replied to all the attacks to which they might be subjected over the next few days. To a question about the possible recourse to another strike if the negotiations fail, Amaoui and Afilal stated that the enemies of democracy should not be given an opportunity to carry out arrests and practice repression. Mr. Afilal stated: We respect the national interest, but the government must avoid an escalation. To a question from Radio France Internationale on their expectations of Monday's government statement, the trade union leaders replied that the government has led [the people] to an impasse in democracy, and that they are not expecting real changes from it. In fact, the crucial question which arises today is whether or not a real political will exists to resolve the weighty social dossier and introduce democracy. [passage omitted] [Announcer] I would add that the trade unionists observed a minute of silence in memory of the victims of the clashes. They are also calling for the release of all those arrested. [passage omitted] Today the Moroccan authorities are taking exceptional measures in order to guarantee calm in the cities of the Kingdom; police and military reinforcements have been deployed in the cities, particularly in Fes, as our special correspondent Muriel Pamponne was able to note:

[Pamponne] The center of Fes is calm and the security forces are being discreet. In the surrounding suburbs, however, the presence of the military is still much in evidence. The district of (Bab Sida) is surrounded; in the districts of Bab Fetouh, (Sereglaoua), and (Montfeluris), there is talk of mass arrests among both the unemployed, those who are on strike, and also the students. Tomorrow the majority of them are due to appear in court. Moroccan radio itself has announced that 210 people are due to appear. The dead are being buried in the working-class districts, where a few skirmishes are still occurring from time to time. The toll now given by trade union sources is 28 dead, whereas officially it is limited to five, but 16 burial permits have already been issued by the municipal authorities. Today the minister of the interior came to Fes in person, but he did not appear in public.

Rabat Confirms Two Dead, 127 Wounded in Clashes

LD1512222990 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] Fes has witnessed serious events following the call for a general strike. A number of demonstrators exploited the call to strike in order to carry out acts of sabotage, arson, and looting.

A number of police departments, post offices, radio, and telephone centers, hotels, secondary education institutes, clinics, pharmacies, cable agencies, fuel stations, and one of the most important banks, a barracks of the auxiliary forces, and food warehouses and shops have all been targets for the troublemakers, who were armed with iron bars and knives.

A number of cars were set on fire and high voltage electricity cable was destroyed. The security forces intervened to put an end to the acts of sabotage and looting by organized gangs of trouble makers in some part of the city.

The clashes and acts of looting have caused the following losses: two dead—a policeman and the other, a young man from the demonstrators who succumbed to his wounds—127 wounded, the destruction of and setting fire to six plants, looting of scores of stores, and three banking agencies, the burning of 30 cars and 20 buses, and setting fire to the Hotel Meridines.

The Security forces have arrested 210 members of these gangs. Legal writs have been issued against them and they will appear before the courts next Monday [17 December].

Today, after a return to normalcy and the reopening of stores and educational establishments, a number of troublemakers exploited recesses of elementary and secondary schools to instigate and incite students to come out, thereby creating gatherings in various parts of the city.

The troublemakers exploited these gatherings in order to resume their acts of violence, sabotage, and looting. The security forces, however, maintained self-control and showed bravery and dispersed the troublemakers.

The situation is now calm and things have returned to normal.

Ministry Official Interviewed on Fes Situation

LD1612162690 Paris International Service in French 1230 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Telephone interview with (Maaninou), introduced as director of information at the Moroccan Ministry of Information and the Interior, by unidentified correspondent on 16 December; includes remarks by correspondent Muriel Pamponne—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] The social situation in Morocco is marked by calm in most of the large towns today. With the exception of a few skirmishes—for example stoning of buses—everything is calm today. However, the toll of the 14 December riots in Fes, is becoming heavier: The official toll now speaks of five dead in the spiritual capital of the Kingdom.

There is a much higher toll according to other sources. If we are to believe the British agency REUTER, the riots on Fes resulted in 33 dead. The British agency is basing this on a medical source, a Moroccan doctor who demanded anonymity. In Tangiers, according to a medical source, there are 25 injured in hospitals. These are the figures, which are difficult to verify, of course. As I said the situation is calm in most of the large towns of the

Kingdom today. This is the case in Fes in particular, where our special correspondent Muriel Pamponne is on the line:

[Pamponne] [passage omitted] Now everyone is attempting to understand how things can have come to this, these riots, which according to the toll supplied by the Information Ministry delegate resulted in five dead, including one policeman. According to other sources, between 16 and 23 of the demonstrators are dead. According to the Information Ministry's delegate in Fes the police carried out 210 arrests between 14 and 15 December.

On the trade union side there is still concern for Mr. [name indistinct] (Aloui), the regional delegate of the General Union of Moroccan Workers [UGTM]. [passage omitted] Interior Minister, Driss Basri is expected in Fes at any minute. Muriel Pomponne in Fes for Radio France International.

[Correspondent] With us on the telephone is the director of information at the Moroccan Ministry of Information and the Interior. Good day, Mr. (Maaninou). Do you confirm that Morocco is more or less calm now?

[Maaninou] Yes, I would like to tell you that the situation is calm throughout the Kingdom and things are normal in Fes.

[Correspondent] Do you have a toll for the 14 December incidents?

[Maaninou] Yes, for the 14 December incidents we had already announced two dead—one policeman and one demonstrator, and the toll announced yesterday at 2100 hours confirms the death of three other demonstrators, out of those who were seriously injured.

[Correspondent] So that makes a total of five dead.

[Maaninou] That makes a total of five dead, including a young boy.

[Correspondent] Is it a final toll?

[Maaninou] It is a final toll this morning.

[Correspondent] Do you have an idea of the damage, because in Fes there was considerable damage?

[Maaninou] Yes, yes, yes, we had already announced that a certain number of public and private buildings, cars and coaches were burned or ransacked. According to journalists' estimates, in Fes for this morning there is damage assessed at some $15 million.

[Correspondent] Were there arrests, particularly yesterday?

[Maaninou] Around 100 arrests were made yesterday—added to those made the day before, the total comes to around 210 people.

[Correspondent] Are these people going to be brought before the courts?

[Maaninou] They will be brought before the courts, starting tomorrow.

[Correspondent] Thank you, Mr. Maaninou. [passage omitted]

Laraki Addresses Chamber of Deputies on Strike

LD1712230190 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2056 GMT 17 Dec 90

["Full text" of government statement delivered by Prime Minister Azzedine Laraki to Chamber of Deputies in Rabat on 17 December—recorded]

[Text] Thanks be to God and peace and prayers for the messenger of God.

Mr. Speaker, honorable deputies.

Last Tuesday, I had the honor of answering questions put forward by the honorable deputies and heads of majority (?groups) of your esteemed council concerning the current dialogue between the government and representatives of the trade union organizations and the vocational bodies.

The government seized the opportunity to answer these questions in order to clarify the actual content of the government statement and to prove its good intention and genuine will for dialogue and the sure resolve to respect the provisions of the Constitution in safeguarding the right to strike and the freedom of work and its duty to uphold public security and the safety of citizens.

At the same time the government expressed its commitment to increase wages and some compensations, calling for the continuation of dialogue with all sides, whatever their subsequent stand, until solutions have been achieved which satisfy everyone.

Afterwards, the trade unions of the General Federation of Workers in Morocco and the Democratic Confederation of Labor demanded that the government should extend to them a new invitation before they retreat from their stand and return to the negotiating table. This time, however, they asked the government to respond immediately and completely to all that was contained in their list of grievances, a document which contains more than 30 demands of various kinds which have huge structural reverberations. The talks lasted for no less than five hours during which the government tried to persuade the two organizations to (?separate) their demand into what is urgent and what can be postponed. But they refused. The government then asked them to arrange their demand according to priority. They refused. They repeated that the grievances cannot be divided and that they will not accept anything other than immediate acceptance in a comprehensive and complete manner.

The government explained [words indistinct] that the dialogue is not taking place with them only but that all the trade unions and vocational bodies are also taking part. In addition, the government does not have the right to answer demands which are within the jurisdiction of parliament in some instances and of businessmen in others. But the two organizations adhered to their stand. The extreme limit of what was achieved was a period of contemplation before returning to the negotiating table.

The following day, that is, Thursday 13 December, a second meeting took place. The two organizations put forward two kinds of demands. The first could be regarded as a principled stand on exercising the trade union right and reexamination of the labor law. The government agreed to begin these without hesitation. The second was a kind of list of the material demands. They described them as constituting the minimum that the government should accept (?immediately).

The government returned to explain once more that these material demands do not fall within their jurisdiction alone but some of them fall within the jurisdiction of the legislature and others concern the private sector. Also, they are considered to be impossible demands which far surpass the material resources of the state.

At the end, the government proposed that a memorandum of agreement which calls for initial agreement to the latest demands be reached without defining the average increases that are demanded and that fixing the percentages should be done during the negotiations which are expected to take place from 19 January

Naturally, the government endorsed the proposal for calling off the strike or at least postponing it. Subsequently, the trade unions asked for a respite for consultation. However, they soon released a statement which stressed their commitment to the general strike decision. 14 December came and there was no response to the call for a strike, thanks to the wisdom, perception, and awareness of the Moroccan citizens, and due to the trust which was placed by the majority of those concerned in the commitments expressed by the government. That was studied by the private and public (?bodies), and cited by all objective thinkers. Matters took a normal course throughout the Kingdom, and no work stoppage was noticed in the civil service. Activities were also normal in the [word indistinct] and transport sectors, and no work stoppage was recorded in the health, post and communications department, or the energy sector.

I would like to take this opportunity to express the government's satisfaction at the way the citizens went about their business in a normal way. Thus, demonstrating the spirit of citizenship. I would like to address my thanks to all the trade union and vocational bodies who demonstrated their good understanding and broad mindedness in the framework of the responsible dialogue which he held with them.

The government regrets that the call for a general strike was exploited by troublemakers which led to the painful incidents particularly in Fes; these incidents, and which we have cautioned those who called for a general strike that matters would slip out of their control. We pray for the souls of the innocent who fell victim as a result of those incidents, and regret the material damage suffered by some citizens.

We also laud the position of the security men who stood up bravely and faced up to events with patience and fortitude.

I announce here in front of your venerable assembly that the government calls for the setting up of a national committee to investigate the Fes events, which will include representatives of the executive apparatus, by means of a delegate from every party in the country. [applause]

The chairmanship of this committee will be given to Mr. Mohamed Nikou, the judge with an extraordinary class and head of the chamber of the higher council [of justice] and secretary-general of the Consultative Council for Human Rights.

Mr. Speaker, honorable deputies: All that happened will not deter the government from its determination to stick to what it had promised, and to pursue the responsible and objective-seeking dialogue with all the parties concerned with the subject, irrespective of their positions, hoping to attain, by means of consultation and dialogue, a lasting tradition of contact between the government and all the interlocutors, to guarantee a follow up of the latest developments at social level, and to find the appropriate solution for these developments at the right time, as ordered by His Majesty, may God make him victorious.

As already pledged before your venerable assembly, and after the resumption of the negotiations which will begin tomorrow, God willing, the government will announce the rate of rises in wages, family allowances, birth allowances, medical and labor accidents allowances.

Mr. Speaker, honorable representatives: The government went along with the trade unions that called for a strike in which they had apparently submitted their demands. But we found out, and so did all honest observers, that the objective of these people was not to attain an objective solution to trade union demands, but they were seeking to secure a general strike, and for this aim they presented impossible demands, until the day of the strike came and led to the events known to all.

At a time when we are remaining mobilized to realize the legitimate demands of the citizens, irrespective of their social strata, we will never accept to forego our social values. We will not accept to forego our values, our principles, and to [forego] sticking to our institutions that emanate from a constitutional monarchy around which all the Moroccan people have rallied. This people is mobilized to defend this constitutional monarchy against any source that seeks to harm it, whether from the inside or from the outside.

Peace and blessings of God be upon you. [applause]

Sudan

Minister on Possible Alliance With Iran

JN1612133590 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Telephone interview with Sudanese Information Minister Muhammad Khawjali Salihin speaking from Khartoum by unidentified reporter in Amman; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Mr. Minister, Colonel 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir [chairman of the Sudanese National Salvation Revolution Command Council] recently returned from a visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran. Could you please talk about the results of this visit and the effect of these talks on developing Sudanese-Iranian and Arab-Iranian relations if possible?

[Salihin] Thank you. The visit was very successful, and its results were positive. The welcome accorded the Sudanese delegation under Col. 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council, is an indication of the possibility of setting up a strategic alliance between Sudan and Iran, especially since the core of relations that bind the two countries lies in the Islamic doctrine which joins the two peoples. It is strongly entrenched in the spiritual, cultural, historic, and intellectual development that unites the Muslim countries.

Regarding Iranian-Arab relations, the Arabic language has become the second official language in Iran and the official language taught at schools after Persian. This strengthens Iran's relations with the Arab nation, since the Arab countries are the closest to Iran spiritually.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, the Gulf crisis was at the core of talks. Could you please throw some light on this aspect?

[Salihin] Yes, this is true. Views were identical, especially regarding the foreign presence in the region and the need to find a peaceful solution to the problem, because war will be destructive and its repercussions will be negative for the whole region.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, what are your feelings about the Iranian position on the crisis in the Gulf through your talks and direct contacts with the Iranian leaders?

[Salihin] In fact, the Iranian position supports the legitimate Kuwaiti government. It does not support an Iraqi presence in Kuwait. However, at the same it rejects foreign intervention and the dense foreign military presence now in the region. There is an extensive Iranian campaign against the forces of the big powers spread throughout the Gulf countries.

[Reporter] Thank you, Mr. Muhammad Khawjali Salihin, the Sudanese culture and information minister.

Health Official Reports 534 AIDS Cases

EA1712201690 Khartoum SUNA in French 0932 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] Khartoum, 12 Dec (SUNA)—The Council of Ministers on Sunday gave a report on AIDS in Sudan. Dr. Husayn Sulayman Abu Salih, the interim minister for health and social assistance, presented the report. He said that 534 cases of AIDS had been registered in Sudan up until now, adding that AIDS had been discovered in Sudan in 1986. He stressed the necessity of making the public aware of the danger of AIDS. The Council of Ministers also confirmed the importance of taking preventive measures to avoid the spread of AIDS.

Tunisia

Algeria's Bendjedid Sees 'Seeds of a Solution'

LD1812014190 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Excerpts] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali held talks yesterday evening [17 December] at the Republican Palace in Carthage with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, who is paying a fraternal and working visit to Tunisia in the last leg of a tour of some Gulf and Middle Eastern countries.

During the meeting, the two presidents reviewed the special relations between the two brotherly countries and ways of further bolstering and consolidating them. The meeting also dealt with the progress of the Arab Maghreb Union and the latest developments in the Gulf crisis. [passage omitted]

President Chadli Bendjedid arrived in Tunis yesterday [17 December]. He was welcomed by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali at Tunis-Carthage International Airport.

On his arrival, President Chadli Bendjedid made the following statement.

[Begin Bendjedid recording] [passage indistinct] My personal impression is that there are possibilities and hopes to deal with the issue within an Arab framework. We are basing this on the reality experienced in the region. We are saying within the framework of an Arab dialogue, at least regarding the seeds of a solution, and not a complete solution. [sentence as heard] We all know that the issue is not at the level of being dealt with solely on an Arab basis. On the contrary, it has been extended, and as officials, we must take this extension into account on the basis of political logic and reality.

I saw seeds that may be the beginning of a peaceful solution. These seeds must be considered and we must return to the sphere, which is that the issue has become international and has been discussed at the UN General Assembly and the Security Council. We must return to these bodies to attempt to defend a point of view by bringing views closer or sowing the seeds of a solution to the issue in order to deal with it in a sensible, objective, and responsible manner, and avoid a catastrophe. God forbid, not just for the region, but one with very negative effects, not just on the Arab region, but even on regions outside it. This is what we have done and the results, if that is the correct expression, we have reached by sounding out and finding out the views of those concerned directly. One can say that we have an idea, although not complete, about a complicated issue, namely the Gulf issue. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Bahrain

Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati Arrives

NC1712133090 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0919 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Manama, 17 Dec (MANA)—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and his accompanying delegation arrived in Manama this afternoon on a visit to Bahrain. During his visit, which is part of a tour of Gulf Cooperation Council nations, Velayati will hold talks on bilateral issues, the latest developments in the Gulf, as well as issues of common concern. [passage omitted]

Received by Deputy Amir

NC1712134690 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1120 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] Manama, 17 Dec (WAKH)—Today His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-'Isa Al Khalifah, deputy amir of Bahrain, received Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, who is currently visiting Manama. During the meeting they reviewed bilateral relations and how to promote them in all fields, current developments in the region, and the international efforts being made to end the crisis resulting from the continued Iraqi occupation of the fraternal state of Kuwait. WAKH has learned that during the meeting emphasis was placed on the need to implement all resolutions calling for total and unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of the legitimate government under the leadership of the Amir of Kuwait His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah. Also attending the meeting were Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin- Mubarak Al Khalifah; Shaykh Khalid Bin-Ahmad Al Khalifah, chief of the Heir Apparent Court; Ali Ibrahim al-Mahrus, head of the Foreign Ministry's Political Department; and Iranian Charge d'Affairs in Bahrain (Hoseyn Kamalban).

Meets With Prime Minister

NC1712135990 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1335 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Manama, 17 Dec (WAKH)—Bahraini Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah received Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati and the delegation accompanying him today.

The conferees reviewed the latest developments in the Gulf and the international efforts exerted for the Iraqi forces' withdrawal from the state of Kuwait and the reinstatement of its legitimate government. They also discussed bilateral relations and ways to promote them in various fields. [passage omitted]

Makes Statement, Departs

NC1712154490 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1415 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] Manama, 17 Dec (WAKH)—Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati left Manama for Abu Dhabi this evening at the end of a brief visit to Bahrain as part of a tour of a number of countries in the region.

Dr. Velayati held talks with senior Bahraini officials on bilateral relations and ways to promote them in various fields, as well as on the current developments in the region and the international efforts to end the crisis resulting from Iraq's continued occupation of the sisterly state of Kuwait.

In a departure statement to WAKH, Velayati said his country looks forward to further cooperation in all areas with the Gulf Cooperation Council member states.

He noted that his talks with Deputy Amir of Bahrain His Highness Shaykh Hamad Ibn-'Isa Al Khalifah, Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak were useful, positive, and constructive, saying that the talks dealt with bilateral relations and ways to promote them.

He added that the talks also dealt with regional issues and the exchange of delegations between Bahrain and Iran in the future.

Dr. Velayati asserted his country's stand on the Gulf crisis, which calls for implementing Security Council resolutions, promoting a peaceful settlement to the crisis, and bringing about the Iraqi forces' full and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait.

Prime Minister on GCC Providing Troops

AFP Reports Statement

NC1712095890 Paris AFP in English 0926 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] Manama, Dec 17 (AFP)—The six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) should provide half the troops in any regional security force, the prime minister of Bahrain has said, without specifying who should supply the other half.

Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, quoted in the Qatari daily newspaper AL-AHD, said the GCC should be responsible "for at least 50 percent of the personnel for a security force that would be indispensable for the defense of the (Gulf) region."

The United States has raised the possibility of U.S. participation in a regional security network that could be established in the Gulf following an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

The GCC currently maintains a lightly armed force of several thousand men based at Hafr al-Batin in northeast Saudi Arabia.

Council members are Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar and Oman.

The GCC is scheduled to hold a summit in Qatar on December 22.

WAKH on Al Khalifah Statement

NC1712205390 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1745 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Excerpts] Manama, 17 Dec (WAKH)—Bahraini Prime Minister His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah has said that the basic issue for the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states is the return of the Kuwaiti people to their country under their legitimate government. His highness called for a new plan for regional security under which the Gulf states would provide at least 50 percent of the security force needed to defend it.

In an interview with the Qatari magazine AL-'AHD, his highness affirmed that the issue of liberating Kuwait will be the main topic of the GCC summit in Doha on 22 December. His highness described this summit as the culmination of the efforts to liberate Kuwait and allow its people to return to their country under the leadership of their legitimate government.

His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah praised the efforts of the leaders of the GCC states since the Iraqi invasion on 2 August to achieve this objective, particularly the efforts made by Saudi King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, since the invasion. He noted that King Fahd has made colossal efforts and intensive contacts and devoted all of his country's resources toward liberating Kuwait. He said that Saudi Arabia is shouldering the responsibility with faithfulness and honesty, and its role will not be forgotten.

His highness the prime minister of Bahrain stressed that the meeting of the GCC leaders in Doha will underline the fact that the liberation of Kuwait is the primary task. When Kuwait is restored, many issues must be considered in preparation for a new world existing under different conditions. [passage omitted]

His highness called for a new visualization of the region's security based on the efforts of its people and insuring that this region can defend its accomplishments and gains.

Regarding the presence of the multinational forces in Saudi Arabia, his highness the Bahraini prime minister explained that the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the subsequent threats to the Gulf states were the reasons for the presence of these forces. When Iraq withdraws from Kuwait, these forces will not need to stay, because they came for a specific purpose, to deal with a crisis created by the Iraqi invasion.

Regarding the Palestinian issue, his highness affirmed that the Palestinian cause is championed by all Arabs. It was and remains our main preoccupation, despite what happened. [passage omitted] His highness hopes that the crisis caused by Iraq's occupation of Kuwait will end soon so that attention can be devoted to solving the Palestinian issue and achieving the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. [passage omitted]

His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah stressed that the GCC states need to establish a strong economic bloc based on coordination among these states and the exploitation of their resources. These states should speak the same political, economic, and security language. He said that there is no place in the world today for weak groupings or isolated states. He affirmed that economic unity means placing the interests of all above the interest of one state. We are trying to achieve this objective, he said. His highness expressed the hope that the GCC states will enter the 21st century as one political and economic entity, capable of dealing with the major world blocs, who deal on equal terms only with the strong. [passage omitted]

Cabinet Session Discusses Gulf, Other Issues

NC1712165290 Manama WAKH in English 1605 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] Manama, Dec 17 (WAKH)—Bahraini Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah today chaired the weekly cabinet meeting.

Bahraini Minister of Development and Industry and Acting State Minister for the Cabinet Affairs Mr Yusuf al-Shirawi said that at the outset of the meeting the prime minister welcomed the current visit by Saudi Second Deputy Premier Minister of Defence and Aviation and Inspector-General Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz to Bahrain.

Shaykh Khalifah briefed the cabinet on the talks with Prince Sultan that covered the developments of the current crisis in the Arabian Gulf region resulting from the continued Iraqi occupation of Kuwait in addition to a number of Arab and international issues of mutual concern to the two countries. The prime minister affirmed appreciation of H.H. the amir, government and the people of Bahrain for the big role played by Saudi Arabia under the leadership of the custodian of the two holy mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz for the benefit of Arab and Islamic issues as well as the firm stance King Fahd adopted towards the Iraqi aggression on Kuwait.

Shaykh Khalifah wished the forthcoming 11th GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] summit, due to be held in Qatar on December 22d, to come with positive resolutions to serve the GCC march and more cohesiveness among the GCC countries.

The prime minister asked the foreign minister to brief the cabinet on latest developments towards the situation in the region.

The foreign minister gave a detailed report on all efforts which are being exerted to make Iraqi forces to withdraw from Kuwait and for the restoration of the legitimate Kuwaiti Government.

The cabinet then reviewed issues on its agenda which began with a report by the minister of development and industry on the outcome of the Ministerial Council's conference of "OAPEC" [Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries] which was held in Cairo recently.

The minister of development and industry briefed the cabinet on the signing of a 570 million dollar loan agreement financing Alba's expansion project with a number of European countries and financial establishments.

The prime minister said that the signing of this agreement reflects the confidence and trust of the international market in Bahrain's economic growth and the economy of the region in general.

The minister of information briefed the cabinet on the final report of the ministerial tripartite committee to study international charges in GCC states and which will be forwarded for discussion at the 11th GCC summit in Doha.

Saudi Arabia

Polish Medics To Join Multinational Gulf Force

LD1712144890 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1400 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] Janusz Onyszkiewicz and Jan Majewski, deputy ministers of national defense and foreign affairs, have signed an agreement in Riyadh on stationing Polish medical personnel and two ships, a hospital and a rescue ship, with the international force in Saudi Arabia and the Persian Gulf. The document was signed on behalf of the Saudi Government by General Khalid Bin Sulayman 'Abd-al-'Aziz, commander in chief of the United Armed Forces. It is expected that the first Polish group will be arriving as soon as possible.

United Arab Emirates

Velayati Arrives in Abu Dhabi for Visit

NC1712174190 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1706 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 17 Dec (WAKH)—Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati arrived in Abu Dhabi this evening from Manama on a visit to the United Arab Emirates in the course of his tour to a number of states in the region. Foreign Minister Rashid 'Abdallah, a number of senior officials, and Iranian Ambassador 'Ali Hadi Najafabadi welcomed him upon his arrival.

Meets With President

NC1712175990 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1725 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 17 Dec (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], received a message from Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on the latest developments in the Gulf crisis and the efforts being made to end the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and restore the legitimate authority under the leadership of its amir, His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah. The message also dealt with the necessary means to ensure security and stability in the region and the Iranian Islamic Republic's position on it, as well as ways to strengthen and develop the cooperation between the two countries.

The message was conveyed by Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati when he was received by His Highness Shaykh Zayid this evening.

Further on Meeting

NC1812070890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] Mr. Velayati has met with Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, to whom he conveyed a message from President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The talks during the meeting centered on bilateral relations, developments in the region, and the upcoming session of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council. Mr. Velayati also stressed the need to expand bilateral relations in various fields and said: There is great scope for cooperation between the two countries, and this should be tapped to the maximum. After elaborating on the consistent and principled stance of the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding the Persian Gulf crisis, he said: By means of multilateral cooperation in the political and economic fields, we should forge strong bases for the consolidation of security and stability.

Our foreign minister stressed the need for the the convocation of a seven-member session [of the Gulf Cooperation Council] and for such sessions to be held regularly. He said: Regular sessions would prepare us for various eventualities. He called for a total [Iraqi] withdrawal from all Kuwaiti territory, to be achieved by peaceful means.

Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan expressed his thanks for the message from Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani. He also expressed his appreciation for the Islamic Republic of Iran's efforts to achieve peace and stability in the region.

RCC, Ba'th Party Issues Statement on Crisis

JN1712145190 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1142 GMT 17 Dec 90

["Text" of statement issued after a joint meeting of the Revolution Command Council and the Ba'th Party Regional Command under the chairmanship of President Saddam Husayn in Baghdad; date not given]

[Text] O great Iraqi people; O courageous men of our valiant Armed Forces; O Arabs; O nation whom God has honored by choosing His prophets and emissaries from within it to convey His messages as the lasting basis for faith and revolt against falsehood; O believers wherever you may be: We do not have the time to tell you everything necessary about the background to the plotting that was initiated against Iraq by the evil ones among the Arabs in the region—people like Abu-Jahl [an opponent of the Prophet Muhammad]—and the gathering of infidelity and falsehood ever since Iraq pointed to right and justice and demanded that justice be shown, whether tacitly or openly, by the Arab nation as a whole and between the nation and others in the international sphere. The evil ones in the region, the slaves of foreigners, those who have succumbed to weakness and slipped into pitfalls, have found that their alliance and their despicable surrender to Zionism and the United States must follow a course different from what they were used to before in the form of confrontation.

Although the patient Iraqis have already endured a great deal, we have said that the unjust people's campaign against beloved Iraq—the center from which faith and brave steadfastness radiates—in accordance with the mean plans they have prepared, must be the last red line that the gathering of injustice cannot cross without severe punishment.

When the gathering of the unjust wanted to go beyond the red line to blot out every ray of light and extinguish every bright spot so that darkness, corruption, and perversion would reign throughout the nation; when the foundations of belief were desecrated and the light of Islam put out, Iraq, in the name of God, rebelled. It drew its sword along with the believers to destroy the den of spies consisting of foreign agents who used our good Iraqi land in Kuwait and its well-known resources as a means to further their destructive and conspiratorial role against the country from whom the land of Kuwait was originally severed.

Victory over the Croesus of Kuwait and his helpers came on the great day of the call, the glorious day that shook the roots of injustice everywhere and brought back great hopes, to line up with the long-term hopes of our nation's sons for liberation, dignity, and prosperity balanced with belief.

Foremost among those who heard the good tidings of that great day and this great tributary to belief radiating from the land of hope in the Iraq of heroism and glory are our dearest brothers, the sons of Palestine, who have struggled against oppression, who were patient for over 40 years until their patience ran out, and who have suffered since that day from the conspiracies of the conspirators and the meanness of those who sold their dignity, nationalism, the values of the united nation, and the principles of Islam.

The sight of their struggling groups everywhere—especially the children who throw their stones while hailing Iraq, its leader Saddam Husayn, and the day of the call—was one of the highest stages of pan-Arab awareness of belief and the highest levels of the link in destiny between Iraq and its position and the pan-Arab struggle.

Since that day of the call, which did away with one of the most detested thrones of corruption, baseness, and conspiracy against the Arab cause in general, a part of which is the Palestine question, we say the sight of the Palestinian strugglers linking their destiny and their hope for revealing justice in the Arab homeland and destroying the places of corruption was a lesson for those who can learn and a decision in favor of belief for those whose determination is pointed in the right direction.

It is no coincidence that the heroes of Iraq and its great people see in their militant determination the image of the nation as it is, or as the believers want it to be, foremost of which is the image of the oppressed Palestinian people. Therefore, one of the most important principles of the 17-30 July Revolution is this link in understanding and behavior between the nationalist and pan-Arab principles on the one hand, and between the two of them and the humanitarian values on which our great spiritual heritage has depended on the other.

On the basis of this belief, Palestine was in the conscience of every struggler, revolutionary, and mujahid among those who planned, struggled, rebelled, and continued the July march. It was before all eyes; it was not hidden when the sky was crystal clear or when there were heavy storms and lightning. The Dome of the Rock has always inspired believers and those who rebel. The linkage on our part existed and was clear between removing corruption and corrupting influences and increasing jihad strength and the liberation of Palestine; between the liberation of Kuwait and making it the 19th Governorate and the liberation of Palestine; between any spell of freedom for free decisionmaking by our struggling people in the Arab Maghreb and any ray of light that rises in Palestine in the Arab East. Hence, the linkage should have existed—since the moment the day of call [2 August] was decided before its heroes made it a tangible fact—between the liberation of Kuwait and the demolishing of the den of spies over their heads and creating additional strength to liberate Palestine.

In fact, the linkage between the liberation of Palestine and every ray of light that appears in our Arab homeland outside Palestine has always existed in the minds of the enemies of the Arab nation. On this basis, they resisted all honest movements and regimes that raised the slogans of Palestine honestly and earnestly, including their conspiracy against Iraq until they cut off the morsel of bread that was imported before the Gulf events.

This is the principled, practical, and militant face of the linkage between the national struggle in Palestine and the pan-Arab and Islamic struggle and jihad outside Palestine.

But, why have we linked this now politically and in our international activity, statements, and international relations? Because none of the countries in the outside world have the right to interfere in an issue that we consider a domestic one, whether on the level of inter-Arab relations or on the level of the issue in Iraq. The only way to allow those other than the sons of the one nation and people to interfere in the issue is to use the excuse of international law and the UN Charter. But then, we must not forget how UN organizations have conspired against the Palestine question, or remained silent about the conspiracy, or spoke timidly when they should have spoken out loudly to maintain the minimum level of their credibility in the eyes of some people and under the influence of the friends of the Arabs who were party to the cold war.

However, these organizations remained unable—which is probably what they wanted—to enforce seriously any resolution that benefits the Arabs, primarily the Palestine question. Thus, since 1947, UN General Assembly and Security Council resolutions have remained mere ink on paper.

By saying this, we do not want to make the rights of the Palestinian people and the liberation of Palestine dependent on the Gulf crisis and security in the Gulf so as to obstruct their accomplishment whenever there is an opportunity through any honorable means. Rather, we wanted to make the credibility of the U.S. [as heard] Security Council, U.S. officials, and security in the region, dependent on the liberation of Palestine and the return of all legitimate rights to the Palestinian people. Therefore, our call, according to this description, is a sincere struggle and jihad role, accompanied by sacrifice for Palestine, and not a call addressed from [political] salons. The practical and moral momentum of this call is unequivocal. The best evidence of this is the testimony of the heroes of the intifadah and the president of the state of Palestine.

Therefore, and as a test of the degree of credibility of the U.S. Security Council in its call for respecting international legitimacy and international law, we have said and continue to say that the Arabs, including Iraq, are demanding international legitimacy and international law. Many Arabs have been running for a long time after the mirage [of international law and legitimacy] without it returning to them any usurped rights, or applying in their interest any of the laws and resolutions of the United Nations.

The concerned superpowers, which have taken upon themselves the right of special guardianship of the laws and resolutions of the United Nations, have dealt lightly and insincerely with all the issues of the Arab nation on a selective, unjust basis, and done injustice to these issues. Consequently, the Arabs have been afflicted with many tribulations—their nation and their countries were fragmented; Palestine was usurped; and Lebanon was occupied and turned into a deep and bloody gash in the body of the nation—and yet, international law has not been applied.

On this basis, and in order to give the Palestine question moral and practical momentum at the right moment, and in order to test the seriousness of those who are really concerned about adhering to the international law and legitimacy, we spoke about political and practical linkage among the issues of the region as a whole as a realistic result of their objective linkage, such as the linkage between cause and result.

It is natural that true mujahidin striving sincerely for their nation's causes seize whatever chance that presents itself. It is therefore natural that we address the Palestine question in this manner that it deserves, now that the people—although some of them are pretending—have shown the need for establishing stability and security in the region by invoking international law and legitimacy. It is also natural that we explore the seriousness of the UN and Security Council resolutions insofar as the Palestine question and the Palestinians are concerned as a first inevitable step for opening a discussion and resolving all the other problems of the region, including the Gulf crisis according to uniform standards and taking into account their backgrounds and according to the provisions of the initiative of his excellency leader President Saddam Husayn on 12 August 1990. Then the Arabs, including the Iraqis, will reap such major gains as will require commensurate sacrifices from all of us as necessary. Hence, it becomes clear, brothers, friends, and people that we did have the liberation of Palestine in mind only on the great day of the call, or only after it; Palestine had been in our consciences and hearts and always right before our eyes. We adopted its liberation as a slogan and message since we were elementary school children, and from the day it was conquered by the Zionists in 1948.

When we stand for linkage as stated in the 12 August initiative, the belief that Kuwait is part of Iraq is unshakable, and that it is the 19th province is a fact treated by our people and their Armed Forces as a great gain—not just in terms of a territory that had been usurped or the return of a people who were lost and then rejoined their kinfolk, but also since it has come to represent an honorable battle between all faith and all infidelity, and between social and economic injustice and justice as a basis for all justice. It has become a symbol of honor and virtue in this major battle—the mother of battles. We have wanted to establish a link between any gain for the [Arab] nation and any [Iraqi] national gain, between any local flexibility and any major victory that represents—in terms of security, stability, and spiritual and cultural revival of the Arab and Islamic nations—a new situation that puts them in the place desired by us and the faithful, with abiding preparedness for valiant battles, if it is God's will, even to the last links in the villains' stock. [sentence as heard] Then, many heads and regimes of injustice, the extent of whose effect on what God wants and accepts He knows, will roll and fall.

The fleets and forces of oppression will not intimidate us. God will curse and scorch with hellfire the pale faces which harbor evil for the nation. The dens of treason and Zionism will be knocked down over their heads, and the feet of the brave ones will kick the heads of those who allow themselves to encroach on Iraq, whose borders are inflamed and abounding with glory, might, and faith.

Shouts of God is great will cover the battlefields. After the battle stops, the sun of a new glory and a unique victory will emerge for the entire nation. The unjust people will be defeated after shedding their nasty blood and the severed members of the bodies of their supporters will be left as food for birds of prey. We seek peace, we want dialogue for the sake of peace. We respect legitimacy and seek the application of international law on the nation's causes. However, we reject capitulation. We scoff at those who expect it. We do not give any weight to those who have become arrogant and are admiring their superiority to us. However, as God and his noble prophet have advised us, we should take care to delight the hearts of the faithful and make them feel safe. We reject the unilateral imposition of dates as the President of the United States wishes vis-a-vis the dialogue to which he agreed. As a sovereign state, we adhere to our rights the same as those who see themselves as the biggest states in the world adhere to their legitimate rights. Nothing is big for us except right and nothing rises above us except right. It is God who is the biggest, highest, and greatest. God is great, and let the lowly be accursed.

[Signed] The joint meeting of the RCC and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command.

Foreign Ministry Statement Criticizes EC Summit

JN1812075990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0728 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Dec (INA)—In a comment to INA, a responsible source at the Foreign Ministry has stated the following:

We followed with interest the meetings at the EC summit, which were concluded in Rome on 15 December, and the results of this summit. We would like to make the following remarks:

1. The Rome summit issued separate statements on the so-called Gulf crisis, the Middle East, and Lebanon, not because these issues are separated and not linked, but to satisfy the U.S. Administration that is trying, to no avail, to ignore the objective and practical linkage among our region's issues, the need to tackle them comprehensively, and to reach a just and comprehensive solution to them. Otherwise, how could there not be, for example, a link between the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon and this same occupation of Palestine and the Syrian Golan Heights?

2. We had hoped the EC would show greater independence and a clearer distinction in its stand toward the various region's issues and problems from the stand of the United States, out of our belief that the real European objectives and interests are not in harmony with the aggressive American schemes against Iraq and the Arab nation, by virtue of the intermingling of the traditional relations of cooperation and friendship among Europe's peoples and the Arab nation, and the linkage between pan-Arab security and that of the European Continent as two neighboring regions.

3. The EC's interest in reaching a peaceful political solution to the issues in the region is greater than that of the United States, whose view of, and handling of, these issues proceeds from a stand of single-handedness and hegemony over the political decision of the countries in the region and exploiting their natural and oil resources to realize its goals of dominating the region and the world, including Europe.

It is in united Europe's interest to deal with an independent Arab decision as an alternative to U.S. control over the countries in the region. We believe it is in Europe's interest to deal with the independent Arab decision and not with the Arab conditions [awda'] subject to U.S. hegemony in their decisions and resources as Washington is feverishly seeking to do.

4. Peace is a joint collective responsibility and not an Iraqi decision as is indicated by the EC declaration, since it is not enough that Iraq expresses its concern over a just and comprehensive peace so long as this is not met with the same desire, concern, and behavior from the United States and its allies.

Peace is the responsibility of all sides concerned in the development of events in the Gulf region and Arabian Peninsula, contrary to the decision of aggression and war, which is the U.S. Administration's decision and definitely not Iraq's decision after the latter has confirmed its firm stand on its desire for a just and comprehensive peace.

5. As regards the Rome summit declaration on the Gulf, we would like to say that Iraq's position is clear toward the unjust and invalid American resolutions that were passed by the UN Security Council and which led to a comprehensive boycott and inhuman siege of Iraq with the aim of starving its people and depriving them of medicine and infant milk in violation of human charters, because what is based on falsehood is not fit to serve as a basis for achieving a just settlement that is acceptable to all parties.

6. The real dialogue, whether with Europe or the United States, should be unconditional, serious, open, and an in-depth dialogue that tackles all issues pertaining to our region, and not a meeting that is used as a pretext for aggression. Hence, we see no link, whether in time or form, between the proposed Iraqi-American dialogue and a European-Iraqi dialogue whose date and bases can be agreed upon between Iraq and the EC together or separately.

7. Iraq is a real international legitimacy and not the "legitimacy" of the private American interests. International legitimacy is an indivisible whole. One should not select from this legitimacy what suits him and neglects what conflicts with his interest at the expense of the rights and interests of the other parties concerned in the proposed issues of dialogue.

8. In its declaration, the EC notes the importance of an Arab role to be continuously played by the Arab countries in the efforts aimed at finding a peaceful solution. We would like to emphasize that Iraq has before and after 2 August been eager that matters be tackled within the framework of the Arab family. It was agreed to hold a five-way minisummit in Jeddah on 5 August to deal with the Gulf incidents, but the United States prevented that meeting and hastened to send its invading forces to the Arabian Peninsula on the fabricated, baseless pretext of protecting Saudi Arabia. This was followed by the conspiratorial role the Egyptian regime played at Cairo meeting on 9 and 10 August in a bid to give an Arab cover to the foreign invasion of the Arab and Muslim holy places.

The course of events over the past few months has confirmed that the U.S. Administration has worked and continues to work to obstruct any inter-Arab dialogue and paralyze any sincere endeavors and moves to secure the holding of meetings among the Arab parties, beginning with an Iraqi-Saudi dialogue with a view to reaching an Arab solution away from the blackmail of the U.S.-Atlantic spears. This has been repeatedly confirmed by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn.

9. If there were to be a solution within an international context, the international solution which we envisage should be based on Leader President Saddam Husayn's initiative of 12 August, which provides for a comprehensive linkage among regional problems, calls for resolving them in accordance with uniform principles and standards, and further states that the historical background of every issue, headed by the Palestine question, should be taken into account.

10. As for the special declaration on the Middle East, the Rome summit has failed to identify the party responsible for the failure to achieve a just and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine question; namely, the United States and its strategic ally, the Zionist entity.

11. The talk of violence and counterviolence is an unfair attempt to equate the executioner with the victim. Can the legitimate national struggle being waged by the Palestinian people to resist foreign occupation and liberate their usurped homeland be equated with the brutal crimes of Zionist repression which have been continuing on a daily basis, causing the killing of innocent people, the demolition of houses, the deportation and forced mass emigration of the owners of the land, a change in its features, and an expansionist settlement drive to absorb new Jewish immigrants, even if this were to cause eviction of the Palestinian people from their homeland?

The blessed Palestinian intifadah, which has entered its fourth year with steadfastness and unlimited sacrifices, has a legitimate right guaranteed by the international charters. The intifadah activities should not be recorded on the list of violence, which is aimed at justifying the hideous practices of the occupation authorities and the fascist Zionist settlers, which deserve the maximum degree of denunciation, condemnation, and boycott; and punishment of the Zionist enemy; and not a mere expression of concern which will never protect the Arabs of Palestine from the Zionist scheme of systematic annihilation and destruction. As leader President Saddam Husayn said: Palestine first, and without guaranteeing its Arab people's rights to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of their independent state under the PLO, peace, security, and stability will not be achieved in our region or the world.

Concluding its comment, the responsible source said: Making these remarks does not mean ignoring the positive results of the EC summit, which we hope will be entrenched and developed in the interest of expanding the prospects of the Euro-Arab cooperation and of bolstering the Arab nation's friendship with Europe's peoples; and to serve world peace and understanding.

Paper Criticizes Bush Comments on Baker Visit

JN1712163290 Baghdad INA in English 1140 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 17, INA—The Iraqi English language newspaper "THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER" said that President George Bush is still so obsessed with what he naively sees as the prospect of a quick victory in the Gulf. He seems overconfident of defining the course of events as he wishes as though others, namely Iraq, would stand idly by watching him see his evil intentions through. This is the case when he speaks. But his behaviour is indicative of a completely different person, someone who is full of worry and frets.

The paper added that with all the misgivings about Bush's move, Iraq readily welcomed it, viewing it as a possible opportunity to develop a taste for talk inside the U.S. Administration.

The paper further said that out of respect for the U.S. Government's independent decision, the Iraqi Government agreed to the US-set timetable for Iraqi foreign minister's visit to Washington.

It added that the US President, and in a very crude demonstration of superpower arrogance, poked his nose in a purely Iraqi decision. Just as the had the undisputed right to tell others when to come, Iraq has the same right to tell Baker when to come. [sentence as received] It is part of Iraq's sovereignty to set the date for meetings with its president.

During his remarks about the alleged Iraq "insincerity", President Bush was far from accurate. He said he gave Iraq fifteen options for Baker's visit. But Iraq has received only very limited options, no more than two.

The paper went on saying that Bush also said President Saddam Husayn had received many international figures concluding that he must be able to receive Baker.

But those figures arrived in Iraq following intensive contacts and special arrangements that made their meetings with Iraqi officials, mainly the president, possible. Nothing came off the cuff.

Bush's manipulation of the dialogue issue is yet another evidence of how shaken the US President is, how sceptical he is about his plans. His bombastic words evidently show a state of mental discomfort, lack of self-confidence and unparalleled distrust about his own policy in the Gulf, it concluded.

Editorial Warns Bush Against Dialogue 'Game'

JN1712135290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Dec (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has emphasized that the Iraqis and their wise, peerless leadership are prepared to turn the tables and the cards over the heads of those wagering on war, and that the preparations made in the arena of confrontation will ensure the defeat of the aggressors.

In an editorial published today the newspaper says: If Bush thinks that the dialogue game he started with the intention of opening another channel to war can deceive the Iraqis or weaken their high readiness for jihad, he will be gravely mistaken.

The paper notes the CIA director's statement that any war with Iraq will be long and bloody, and says: We tell him yes, and add that he should expect more and should ask Bush to send more coffins for his soldiers, who will be the main fuel of the fire America intends to start.

The paper stresses that the Iraqis are advocates of peace, but not that peace which is coupled with subjugation to American hegemony, empty arrogance, and false legitimacy. It adds: We strongly and unequivocally reject this. The paper then recalls President Saddam Husayn's assertion that if forced to use weapons, we will fight with all the Islamic and Arab honor we know, believe in, and have learned, and the oppressors will be defeated regardless of the number of their armies and the quality of their weapons.

The paper calls on the U.S. Administration and Bush in particular to rationally review his aggressive positions since remorse will not benefit him when the image of the patient believers emerges before his eyes after these believers carry out their honorable duty of defending their land, dignity, and holy places which were debased by warmongers and those awash in evil and aggression.

Concluding, the paper says: We long to wage the decisive, crucial battle, which is the talk of honor, dignity, and might that raises one's head high. The believers will then be honored and the aggressive evildoers disgraced.

Paper Says Nation's Hidden Capabilities 'Huge'

JN1712091590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Dec (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH has affirmed that Iraq possesses combat and military capabilities that can defeat America and all its allies and agents on the battlefield. In today's editorial, the paper says that what can be seen of Iraq's capabilities and determination is only the tip of its huge and destructive force in terms of war arsenal, Armed Forces' experience, and determination to defend Iraq, crush the American invaders, and extract Arab rights from the ocean to the Gulf.

AL-QADISIYAH affirms that Iraq, which demands its national rights and the rights of the Arab nation—and at the same time, rejects the logic of blackmailing and American international aggression—realizes that all false and unjust international resolutions are fragile pillars to prepare for an American aggression to control oil sources in the region.

The Iraqi paper adds that oil should not mean the relinquishment of Arab rights and Muslim holy places. We are ready to burn it up for the sake of the Arab nation's dignity, pride, and sovereignty.

Concluding, AL-QADISIYAH says that while revealing its capabilities and determination to confront American aggression, Iraq is not making war cries; it wants to deter the enemies and make them think of dialogue and peace. As President Saddam Husayn affirmed in his address to the world popular Islamic leaders, we do not want war, because we are good builders: and good builders do not find it easy to use arms. But if fighting is imposed on us, we will have no other choice but the crucial battle.

Editorial Calls Kuwait 'Special Case' in Region

JN1612090490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0725 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Dec (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH has warned against the dire consequences of believing the U.S. lies about Iraq and the U.S. policy of deception and intimidation, which reveals the truth about its premeditated intentions against the Arab region and Iraq.

In today's editorial, the paper stresses Iraq's concern for mutual respect among the Arab brothers, and for regarding the situation of Kuwait as a special case in accordance with certain considerations. Iraqi power and capability will remain the hallmark of the Arab nation and its objectives to liberate the Arab land and restore Jersalem to the Arab fold.

The paper adds: The U.S. Administration's campaign against Iraq and its unjustified deception and intimidation policy toward some Arab states stresses the truth about the U.S. intentions after 2 August, when it suggested to the regime of the betrayer of the two holy mosques and some Gulf regimes that Iraq is targeting them, at a time when all realize that these claims are untrue, except for Bush's mentality.

The paper adds that this campaign, which Bush used as a prelude to his other aim, namely to strike at Iraq, indicates that the U.S. imperialist policy will not hesitate to practice its aggression against any Arab state in the future as long as it finds someone to believe its deceptive illusions.

AL-QADISIYAH stresses that the situation of Kuwait will continue to have its special nature and historical roots, and its considerations cannot be applied to any other situation in the region. The Arabs must realize the real U.S. intentions, and they should not give a chance to its lies, which are being used to create a rift among the Arab ranks and weaken trust and cooperation among the Arab brothers.

'Judgment Day' Imminent for U.S., 'Traitors'

JN1512091990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Dec (INA)—AL-'IRAQ has condemned U.S. policy and its resort to the cheapest and ugliest methods and cunning formulas to buy votes in order to peddle unjust resolutions against Iraq. In today's editorial, AL-'IRAQ says that the United States—which has recruited all its diplomacy and used the cheapest and ugliest methods and cunning formulas to buy votes in order to peddle unjust resolutions against Iraq—has been making efforts, maneuvering, and misleading others in a hysterical way for the past two weeks to prevent the Security Council from issuing any essayistic resolution in favor of the Palestinians.

AL-'IRAQ noted that for two weeks the United States—with the blessing of the USSR—has been fabricating excuses and putting up one obstacle after another, so that the Security Council will not meet officially and so that it will not be embarrassed by agreeing on a resolution that will anger Israel.

AL-'IRAQ adds that what is taking place within the Security Council right now gives a convincing impression that this international edifice has become—without any doubt—a branch affiliated with the U.S. State Department, and that the resolutions issued by the Council come well formulated and arranged with all the details after they have been passed to senior officials in the U.S. Administration.

The paper stresses that what the United States is doing inside the Security Council once again exposes the hostility harbored by the Washington government to the decisive Arab issues, particularly the cause of the Palestinian people, as well as its disregard for Arab, Islamic, and world public opinion supporting the legitimate rights of the Palestinians.

In its editorial, the Iraqi paper wonders about the position of a clique of the treacherous Arab rulers who brought in the American invasion forces to desecrate the holy lands and seize national and pan-Arab wealth. The paper also wonders about the position of the betrayer of the two holy mosques and Egypt's ruler Husni, how they justify to the Arab masses the Americans' continued insult to Arab feelings, and their ignorance of the roaring voice of the Arab masses throughout the big homeland.

Concluding, the paper says that the Arab masses and all the believers will have a bone to pick with the United States, this injust and irresponsible force, and with all the agents and traitors who have ignored and betrayed the simplest pan-Arab principles and the values of Islam. And the judgment day is not far off.

'Aziz Stresses Concern for 'Lasting' Peace

JN1512210790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2020 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Dec (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received today Mr. Wischnewski, member of the German Parliament and deputy chairman of the Parliament's Foreign Relations Committee.

The latest developments in the region were discussed during the meeting. The deputy prime minister and foreign minister stressed Iraq's concern and constant efforts to find a comprehensive, just, and lasting peaceful solution to all issues in the region, at the head of which is the Palestine question, on the basis of leader President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative and through serious and constructive dialogue.

The meeting was attended by the heads of the Foreign Ministry's Arab Department, International Organizations and Conferences Department, and the Second Political Department. It was also attended by the adviser to former German Chancellor Willy Brandt and the German charge d'affairs in Baghdad.

Ramadan on Struggle for Arab 'Full' Independence

JN1712162590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1327 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 17 Dec (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, received today a Polish peace delegation, headed by Peter Zikarski [name as received] one of the participants in the international peace and friendship camp currently held in Baghdad.

The first deputy prime minister said the Iraqis, supported by all Arab masses, are determined to struggle for the Arab's full independence and complete liberation from all forms of subservience, and to utilize their wealth and will for the welfare of Arabs, who are suffering poverty and starvation because the agent and dwarf rulers have employed Arab wealth to serve the Americans and Zionists.

The first deputy prime minister added that the United States and its allies and servants in the region were angered by Iraq's advances and the struggle [jihad] of its leader Saddam Husayn to achieve progress and liberation. This has made the enemies take a hostile position toward Iraq, impose an economic blockade against it, and prevent food and medicine from reaching its citizens. This has been done through U.S. resolutions that were stipulated neither by international law nor by human rights charters, thus exposing clearly their aggressive, immoral, and inhumane policy. He added that the Iraqis will continue to stick to their rights and will not abandon them whatever the sacrifice. [passage omitted]

Ibrahim Says Nation Can Wage War for 'Years'

JN1512155290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1449 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Dec (INA)—'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], has said that the peace initiative announced by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn on 12 August to resolve regional problems drastically, decisively, and thoroughly through the establishment of linkage is the best way to bring about a comprehensive and just peace in our region.

During his meeting with a delegation of the World Popular Islamic Leadership today, the RCC vice chairman said: Our firm faith in our rights and the soundness of our approach have made us ready psychologically, materially, and scientifically, after relying on God, to confront our enemies and face the invading foreign troops led by the United States against great Iraq.

'Izzat Ibrahim added: If war were to be imposed on us, we would engage in it honorably, courageously, and with high morale and a resolve that knows neither fatigue, nor weakness, nor submission to the enemies. We will then engage in this war for long years, using all the faith that we have and all the military and material capabilities that we possess. The United States will not, as it claims, "settle the battle in a matter of days or weeks," he added. He went on to say: We want this confrontation to serve as a beacon that will light the path for Arab and Muslim strugglers from all parts of the globe to help regain the dignity of the nation and sincerely defend its humane ideals and sublime values.

Addressing the delegation, 'Izzat Ibrahim reviewed the dimensions of the plotting led and supported by the United States and its allies to strike at and besiege Iraq, to cut down its capabilities, and to starve its people by denying them access to food and medicine prior to August 2, and also the United States' continuous landing of troops in the region, occupation of oil wells, and direct hostility toward Iraq.

'Izzat Ibrahim declared that the Palestine question has now become a glaring example attesting to the imperialist hegemony over international organizations, which have failed to vindicate and support the legal and human rights of the Palestinian Arab people to exercise sovereignty over their national soil and to establish a free and independent state at a time when these imperialist quarters have managed to secure the passage of a series of unjust and unfair resolutions, hastily passed against Iraq within a short period of time to deny the Iraqi people access to food and medicine and to starve them in compliance with the evil objectives of the United States and its protege, Israel.

RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim said this phase represents a great historic phase and a rare opportunity for the Arabs and Muslims in view of its critical meaning in diagnosing the intentions of the enemies. It is also the best phase to regain our legitimate rights and free Jerusalem from the claws of the Zionists and the invaders.

He added that the Arab and Muslim masses must realize how many millions of dollars the U.S. agents have spent, and how they have employed and put their huge wealth at the disposal of the foreign invasion troops to occupy the land of Arab and Muslim sanctities and strike at the mass of believers, represented by great Iraq, at a time when there are Arab and Muslim countries in dire need of financial aid to provide some of the requirements of a free, decent life.

'Izzat Ibrahim hailed the stance taken by the Islamic and popular parties and groups, as illustrated by the visiting delegation, toward Iraq, which has become the representative of the hopes and aspirations of the Muslim and Arab peoples in their struggle against the forces of colonialism and Zionism to foil their American aggressive schemes aiming at fragmenting the ranks of the Arabs and Muslims, weakening them and occupying their sanctities.

Members of the World Popular Islamic Leadership delegation said they were proud of Iraq's genuine stance under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn. They declared full solidarity with the Iraqi people, who, with the firmness of the sincere believers, are resisting the mass of infidels, represented by the United States and its allies. They hailed Iraq's peaceful overtures, topped by President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative, and its constant endeavor to achieve comprehensive peace and stability in the region away from any foreign interference.

Philippine NDF Leader, Delegation Arrive

JN1712204790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1758 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Dec (INA)—A delegation from the Philippine National Democratic Front [NDF], lead by Louis Jaland [name as received], official in charge of the NDF's Foreign Relations Bureau, arrived this evening in Baghdad on a several day visit to Iraq.

In a statement to INA, he said the delegation will meet with Arab Socialist Ba'th Party officials to discuss improving ties of joint cooperation. He said the Philippine people support the Iraqi people in their struggle and steadfastness in the face of the U.S.-imperialist schemes.

The delegation was received at the airport by the head of the Foreign Relations Bureau at the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command.

Warn of Attack on U.S. Bases

JN1712210190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1955 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Dec (INA)—The Philippines democratic and nationalist forces have threatened to carry out commando operations against U.S. bases in the Philippines if they are used by Washington in an aggression against Iraq.

Mr. Louis Jaland, official in charge of the National Democratic Front's [NDF] Foreign Relations Bureau [name and title as received] and head of the visiting NDF delegation, said today during a meeting with Comrade Latif Nusayyif Jasim, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command and official in charge of the command's Foreign Relations Bureau, that the NDF sent a memo to the government in Manila in which it warned of the dangers of using the U.S. bases in an aggression against the friendly Iraqi people. He said that the Philippine people and their nationalist forces, represented by the NDF, are in solidarity with Iraq and supports its efforts to achieve peace in the region on just bases.

Comrade Latif Nusayyif Jasim asserted Iraq's ability, determination, and readiness to face any aggression aimed at infringing its sovereignty and the dignity of its citizens. He said Iraq seeks a comprehensive and just solution to all problems in the Arab region in light of President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative, which provided radical solutions to all problems in the region by linking many issues—at the head of which is the Palestine question—and which stressed the need to solve them on the basis of unified criteria and standards.

The comrade member of the Party Regional Command added that this historic initiative has put the entire Arab region in a new situation. He said the initiative aims at solving all the problems created by colonialism and reactionaries in the region at the Arab people's expense. The comrade official in charge of the Party Regional Command's Foreign Relations Bureau emphasized that, while working for peace and stressing the need to achieve it, Iraq is fully prepared to face any aggression that the United States of America and its allies may mount. He added that the U.S. and Atlantic invasion troops arrived in the land of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] under false and unfounded excuses and pretexts to justify U.S. intervention in the land of Arab and Muslim sanctities.

Comrade Latif Nusayyif Jasim briefed the visiting delegation on the historical facts that confirm Iraq's inalienable legitimate rights in Kuwait and on the return of this branch, which was usurped by various colonial ambitions, to the root, Iraq.

Comrade Latif Nusayyif Jasim denounced the unfair resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council under exposed U.S. pressure that aim to prevent food and medicines from reaching Iraqi children, the latest of which was the resolution of aggression against Iraq and its people.

Soviet Envoy Arrives To Discuss Cooperation

JN1612190990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1841 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Dec (INA)—This evening Mr. Vladimir Fedorovich Mordvinov, deputy minister at the USSR Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and deputy head of the Soviet side to the Standing Iraqi-Soviet Committee on economic, scientific and technical cooperation, arrived in Baghdad. He is leading a delegation on a several day visit to Iraq.

In a statement to INA, Mr. Mordvinov said the delegation is to hold talks with Iraqi officials and explore ways of developing bilateral cooperation in various fields.

Welcoming Mr. Mordvinov and his delegation were the under secretaries at the Ministries of Industry and Military Industrialization and Oil, officials from the Ministry of Trade, and the USSR ambassador in Baghdad.

British Member of Parliament Arrives 17 Dec

JN1712191590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1905 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Dec (INA)—Mr. Bernie Grant, president of the Afro-Asian People's Organization in Britain and member of the British Parliament, [title as received] arrived here today on a visit of several days.

In a statement to INA, Bernie Grant said he rejects the U.S. and Western military presence in the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula. He also underscored his rejection of U.S. and foreign intervention and the use of force to settle the dispute in the region.

Ramadan Meets Australian Aboriginal Leader

JN1712162090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1335 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Dec (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, received the Australian peace delegation headed by Clary Isax, president of Australia's Aboriginal Republic [name and title as received], today.

Mr. Ramadan said that through its aggressive campaign against Iraq, the United States is trying to block Iraq's continued development and scientific progress and to destroy its military and economic power, which has become a source of fear and worry for the Zionist entity. Furthermore, the United States is trying to control 60 percent of [the world] oil available in the Arab region with a view to imposing its unilateral hegemony, will, and dictatorial terrorist policy on the world.

Those who have deep and sincere faith in peace, Ramadan said, must believe that effective and comprehensive dialogue, rather than preconditions and a selective approach, is the right path to peace. He stressed that Iraq rejects any conditions for dialogue and said that America must respect and abide by Iraq's decision on the dates of the negotiations, not decide as it pleases.

The Australian delegation said the fact that the United States is leading the anti-Iraq campaign as a prelude for an aggression against this country, has revealed the aggressive U.S. policy against nations. World opinion is fully aware of the objectives of the U.S. policy, the delegation said, adding that means of deception and intimidation and attempts to paste the label of world legitimacy on U.S. decisions so that the United States can impose its hegemony and control the destiny of the world will do the United States no good.

Members of the delegation emphasized that world opinion is convinced that Iraq wants peace and is acting to spare the region and the world the scourge of war. They paid tribute to President Saddam Husayn's positions and initiatives, which provide concrete proof that he is earnestly seeking a lasting and comprehensive peace in the region.

Shortage of Medical Equipment, Drugs Reported

JN1512151590 Baghdad INA in English 1400 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Excerpts] Baghdad, Dec 15, INA—Honorary President of the American-Iraqi Cultural Society Dr. Joseph Thomas said that the American peace delegation currently visiting Iraq carries a message of hope for peace.

It is a very simple message: "The majority of the people in the United States do not want war. They want peace and a negotiated settlement", he said.

Dr. Thomas who is also president of the Med Tek International Corporation, a medical group specialised in advanced medical technology, told THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER his delegation which is composed of people from across the United States and from different religions, believes that the risk of war is great and that everything must be done to create a climate where dialogue replaces confrontation. [passage omitted]

Dr. Thomas criticised the U.S for imposing an economic blockade against Iraq.

He stressed that it is cruel to withhold the needed medication for infants and children. As a physician, he said, he is much concerned about the well-being of man.

He visited Saddam children's hospital and saw for himself the urgent and [as received] for essential drugs like potasium chloride, insulin, antibiotics, antiasthma drugs, antidiabetic agents, anticonvulsants, cytotoxic, vaccines (no more polio booster's shots are permitted).

He also said that the lack of equipment and spare-parts has jeopardised and endangered the lives of many infants and children.

The health administration had to close the surgical wards of this central emergency hospital except for absolute emergencies because of the lack of sutures, and others. They are turning away patients because they do not have medication and baby medicated formulas which are essential for new-borns.

"Our delegation promised that once they return to the United States, they would make this known and appeal to the authorities in rescinding the embargo. An emergency air-lift must be carried out during this time to mitigate the problem", he stressed. [passage omitted]

Sa'id Says Deaths Increasing

JN1812121090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Dec (INA)—The number of children under five who have died so far as a result of the food and medicine shortages due to the siege imposed on the Iraqi people by the United States has risen to 2,042.

Health Minister 'Abd-al-Salam Muhammad Sa'id told the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY that these deaths had occurred during the past four months due to the absence of necessary treatment, malnutrition, and incomplete inoculation as a result of vaccine shortages. This had lead to a deterioration in the health of the children and their contraction of childhood diseases such as measles, whooping cough, tetanus, and diphtheria, and the complications that occurred had lead to their deaths.

The minister wondered what had happened to the agreement on children's human rights which was approved by the UN General Assembly (UNGA), and to its contents regarding the protection and care for children under all circumstances and at all times, whether in peace or war. He stressed that the rise in the percentage of deaths during the past four months among children resulting from the siege on medicine and food is clear evidence for condemning the criminal act by Bush and his aides and those who follow suite.

The health minister affirmed that the resolutions which were issued by the Security Council under the directives of the Bush administration are illegal and inhuman resolutions because they contradict the international laws agreed on by the world's countries, and with the WHO Alma-Ata international conference which convened in 1978 in the Soviet Union, and which was attended by representatives from all world countries and whose document stipulated health for all by the year 2000.

The minister condemned the resolutions of the U.S. Administration preventing vaccines and medicines from reaching the people and children of Iraq, especially since they contradict with the World Health Conference for children organized by the UNGA in New York in September of this year. They also contradict the WHO resolutions on medical and health services for citizens and the need for cooperation in all fields to elevate these services all over the globe.

The minister said that Iraq had signed contracts and paid hard currency for 164 cargoes and batches of medicines, and medical and pharmaceutical equipment before 2 August. He said that these cargoes have been halted and are being held in ports around the world, or have been returned to their place of origin.

Concluding his statement, the minister called on the humanitarian bodies and figures around the world to intervene and thwart the medical and food siege imposed by the U.S. Administration on the people and children of Iraq and to provide medical and food aid to Iraq.

Ministry Proposes Buying Used Cans From Citizens

JN1512143690 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 13 Dec 90 p 6

[Text] AL-JUMHURIYAH has learned that, with the aim of helping break the economic blockade, cut down on waste, and, as much as possible, achieve self-sufficiency in raw materials, the Planning Ministry has proposed to the Ministry of Industry and Military Industrialization that the parties responsible for producing and selling tomato paste buy the empty tomato paste cans from the shops and supermarkets after the shops and supermarkets in turn have bought the empty cans from citizens. The Planning Ministry also proposed a fixed price for the empty can. The ministry explained that this proposal is meant to encourage citizens to sell the cans.

Arens Says Nation Paying 'Price' for Gulf

TA1712160390 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Report by Amir Fink]

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens told an NRP [National Religious Party] youth group that the current balance of forces between Israel and its enemies is perhaps worse than that between the Maccabees and their enemies in Eretz Yisra'el. He then named the many fronts on which Israel is facing threats. Not a single day passes without activity on the northern border, the defense minister said, but for over eight years no Israeli civilian has been killed on that border. One of the threats comes from Iraq, and it is already taking its toll, the minister said.

[Begin Arens recording] I assume that some, if not all, of the murderers who have appeared recently on our streets are inspired by the Gulf crisis. I told our brethren in the United States that we have already paid the price for that crisis in human lives. We all know that such events, with all the pain and anger we feel in our hearts, do not endanger the State of Israel, and cannot bring about one iota of change in our political positions. [end recording]

Why is the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] not given the order to uproot the intifadah, Minister Arens is asked.

[Begin Arens recording] Whoever thinks in terms of a panacea is mistaken. Is there anybody here who really thinks that the confrontation with disturbers of the peace and with terrorists can be solved right now if the correct order is given to the IDF? That all it takes is simply to give an order to the IDF and the problem would be solved? That if we still have a problem here or there or a lot of problems it is only because we have not issued the correct order? [end recording]

Minister Arens said that proof that the IDF has not lost its deterrent capability is the fact that there are countries that say they are in a war situation with Israel but in fact do not actually go to war.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 17 December quotes Mr. Arens as also telling the same forum that "those who talk about cutting ourselves off from the territories are themselves cut off from reality. He said the transfer of Arabs is contrary to our values and cannot be implemented. Separation from the territories and withdrawal is an impossible magic formula. He also said the considerations of the defense establishment cannot be separated from world events."]

Hamas Calls for 'War of Attrition'

TA1712180090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] A new Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leaflet calls for a war of attrition against Israel and suicide actions to upset Israel's self-confidence. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the leaflet was distributed in Judaea and Samaria today. Its authors also reacted to the detention of hundreds of Hamas activists and the deportation orders by saying that the hysteria that has taken hold in Israel is evidence of the weakening of its structure. The leaflet said that Israel's responses will not curtail Hamas, and the movement will remain the backbone of the intifadah.

Paper Calls New Deportations 'Halfhearted'

TA1712145390 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 17 Dec 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Walking a Tightrope"]

[Text] There is no denying that, after letting the weapon of deportations lie idle for over two years, the government has resorted to it again only halfheartedly. The defense minister had demanded the deportation of 14 Palestinians, but the prime minister—trying hard not to infuriate the U.S. Administration after they ironed out their differences last week—permitted the deportation of only four.

By walking this tightrope, Mr. Shamir sought to demonstrate that deportations were being used not as collective punishment but against specific targets; in other words, against the men directly responsible for the latest wave of killings.

This purpose has hardly been obtained. At any rate, U.S. opposition to it was not defused, as was made abundantly clear by the State Department spokesman's denunciation. On the other hand, their low number curtailed the effectiveness of the deportations, as is usually the case with halfhearted deeds.

Indeed, deportations on such a scale will not prevent the intifadah from changing from "the uprising of the stones" into "the revolution of the knives."

On the other hand, those who argue that only political negotiations can stop the deterioration of the situation are indulging in demagoguery. Negotiations with whom? With Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] which declares that even within the boundaries of the Green Line, Israel represents a desecration of Islam? After all, Hamas is the moving force behind the bloodshed. Should we ignore it and go on looking for "convenient" partners?

Indeed, mounting terror is no easy problem. Even if it is true that we should first check ourselves and our alertness since these are areas where much can be amended, there is no ignoring the fact that we really need to revolutionize our thoughts on curbing terror.

Shamir on Death Penalty, Stabbings, Deportations

TA1712140090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has said that he does not know whether a majority of the government favors the death penalty. He said the issue has not been raised and that it is not on the government's agenda. Mr. Shamir pointed out that there is no moral argument against the implementation of capital punishment—which exists today in enlightened countries—but that he doubts its effectiveness.

The prime minister called on the Arabs of the territories to eschew a tactic of stabbings, because it does not stand a chance of success. Shamir said this while speaking to our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen after attending a Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee session.

During the meeting, the prime minister disclosed that 1 million Jews in the Soviet Union are awaiting exit visas.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1230 GMT on 17 December carries a report by Knesset correspondent Dov Gilhar who notes that, referring to the deportation of leaders of the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas, the prime minister said that "the golden mean between maintaining security and helping the United States in the Persian Gulf must be sought."]

Arens Interviewed on Gulf Crisis, Palestinians

AU1712191490 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 17 Dec 90 pp 138-139

[Interview with Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens; place and date not given: "Violence Only Creates New Misery"]

[Text] [DER SPIEGEL] Mr. Minister, the Gulf crisis has been going on for more than four months. What is better for Israel: a diplomatic solution or a shooting war?

[Arens] Israel's interests do not differ from those of the free world. The best would be to solve this crisis without violence.

[DER SPIEGEL] The map exercises of your generals provide for a massive strike against selected strategic targets in Iraq. For in the case of a diplomatic solution, Iraq's arsenal of chemical and biologcial weapons would be preserved and thus it would constitute a deadly danger for Israel.

[Arens] Not only for Israel. I believe that Saddam Husayn's military power threatens not only the Middle East. Nuclear arms in his hands are a danger for the whole world.

[DER SPIEGEL] Already today?

[Arens] Not yet because the Israeli Air Force destroyed his reactor in 1981.

[DER SPIEGEL] What about the Israeli bomb? Your science minister admitted this year in April that Israel is a nuclear power.

[Arens] Our position was always that we would not be the first to possess nuclear weapons in the Middle East. But, as one of my predecessors, General Moshe Dajan, said: We will also not be the third.

[DER SPIEGEL] What would be the casus belli for Israel? When would you move your troops against Iraq?

[Arens] When Israel is in danger, when Iraq attacks Israel.

[DER SPIEGEL] Can you please specify this?

[Arens] I will certainly not brief Saddam Husayn on our intentions via DER SPIEGEL. But we said already at the beginning of the crisis that Israel would not accept Iraqi troops marching into Jordan. We are more directly affected by the Gulf crisis than any other country. And yet, other states are financially supported in their commitment in the Gulf crisis—also by the Germans—but not Israel.

[DER SPIEGEL] What was going on in your mind when U.S. President George Bush traveled through the Middle East and honored almost all of your enemies with visits but did not go to Israel?

[Arens] President Bush succeeded in achieving an international coalition against Iraq, in which Arab countries like Saudi Arabia, but also Egypt and Syria participate. Nevertheless, relations between Israel and the United States are close.

[DER SPIEGEL] But Bush met one of Israel's worst enemies, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, one of those who pulls the strings of international terrorism.

[Arens] You must understand that Bush must seek support from al-Asad, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, Saudi King Fahd, and the shaykhdoms in the Gulf. He need not do this here.

[DER SPIEGEL] The United States supports its new Arab friends with arms supplies valued at billions. Does this bother you very much?

[Arens] We have had this problem for years. And not only the United States supplies Israel's enemies with airplanes and missiles; European countries, for example, Great Britain and France, also do so. We understand very well that the Americans are under very strong pressure from their new allies. But these arms supplies certainly change the military balance in the region to our disadvantage.

[DER SPIEGEL] It seems to us that relations between Israel and the United States have been severely disturbed since the massacre on the Temple Mountain in Jerusalem. The Americans even condemned Israel in the UN Security Council...

[Arens] ...we think that this decision was wrong...

[DER SPIEGEL] ...and now, to Washington's annoyance, the Gulf crisis and the intifadah have been connected. A new impetus has been given to the Palestinians' popular uprising in the occupied territories.

[Arens] We are very sorry that Saddam Husayn is increasingly supported by the Palestinian Arabs in Israel. We are disappointed because the Palestinian population has after all lived with or among us for more than 23 years.

[DER SPIEGEL] Involuntarily, as second-class citizens.

[Arens] Objection. They participate in political life, they are represented in the Knesset. It is correct that they do not have all the burdens and commitments of Israeli citizens, but enjoy only their advantages. We were all the more disappointed that the Palestinians support such a brutal and reckless dictator who does not shrink from using chemical weapons.

[DER SPIEGEL] And now there is an escalation of violence in the occupied territories.

[Arens] Among the Palestinians as, by the way, in most of the Arab states, there is a strong tendency toward fanaticism and brutality, a total disregard for human life.

[DER SPIEGEL] Do you think that this has absolutely nothing to do with the hopeless living conditions of these people?

[Arens] Culture is to blame for this. It is not a national but a cultural problem if somebody is prepared to stab a young girl or an old man at a bus stop. People can have different opinions, but it is not acceptable to settle conflicts by force. The Germans learned this lesson 50 years ago, but the Arabs have not yet done so.

[DER SPIEGEL] Your answer to the Palestinian popular uprising is also violence.

[Arens] What can you propose as protection against people who want to stab you right in the street? For 42 years, it has been part of the Israelis' life that the Arabs use force against us. It was not always easy. Even the inhabitants of Judea, Samaria, and Gaza are gradually realizing that they do not make progress with violence, but that violence only creates new misery for them.

[DER SPIEGEL] Mr. Arens, can you imagine that you will ever sit with PLO leader 'Arafat at the same table?

[Arens] Why should I? 'Arafat is not a democratically elected representative of the Palestinians. We must make peace with the people who live here.

Further Reportage on Yafo Murders, Reactions

Political Parties React

TA1512062990 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] The political establishment was in an uproar following the murders in Yafo. The Tzomet movement called for the dismissal of all Arabs from the territories employed in Israel. Yuval Ne'eman, minister of energy and infrastructure, science and technology, suggested deporting 1,000 leaders of the strike committees in the territories immediately. The Moledet movement joined in the demand to stop the employment of Arabs from the territories in Israel.

Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres said that the stabbings must stop, but he added that the attacks would not stop by themselves without immediate political negotiations. Our party affairs correspondent Hanan 'Azran also reported that Education Minister Zvulun Hammer called for the mandatory conscription into the Civil Guard of people exempt from army reserve duty.

The Likud stated that the enemy's real target is the coastal plain and not just Judaea and Samaria. MAPAM [United Workers Party] asked how much blood had to be spilled until we understood that political separation is a necessity and until the Palestinians accept the existence of the State of Israel. NRP [National Religious Party] Secretary Yitzhaq Levi accused the government of incompetence and called for the immediate deportation of the inciters. The Shinuy faction asserted that the bloodshed proves that the dream of Eretz Yisra'el has failed. The CRM [Citizens Rights Movement] stated that the murder is an undescribable horror and a result of political stupidity. The Peace Now movement called on the government to halt the activity of the extremist Islamic organizations immediately and work to achieve a political separation between Israel and the Palestinians.

Woman Attacked in Tel Aviv

TA1612094390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] There was an attempted stabbing in Tel Aviv. A 31-year-old female resident of Yafo was rescued from an Arab who tried to stab her with a knife. She was not hurt. Our correspondent Shim'on Vilna'i reports that the assailant escaped from the scene, the corner of King George and Zamenhoff Streets, with the knife still in his hand. The police have a description of him. Roadblocks have been set up at various locations at the exits to Tel Aviv to prevent his escape.

The Arab Bar Association in Gaza has set up a legal committee to defend the four Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists against whom deportation orders have been issued. The committee is headed by Furayh Abu-Mudin, chairman of the Bar Association. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that it will appeal the deportation order this afternoon.

Muhammad Abu-Naqira, 25, a masked man, was shot and killed by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] last night when he tried to run away from an Army patrol. Three homemade grenades and ninja uniforms were found in his possession.

Knesset Members React

TA1612070890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] Minister Yuval Ne'eman said that we should not make do with the deportations of the four Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists from the Gaza Strip. We need wide-scale deportations of all strike committee members and activists, the minister told our political correspondent Arye Golan. This is not a game of cops and robbers but a struggle for Eretz Yisra'el, and we need rules like those used in wartime.

Likud Knesset Member [MK] Tzahi Hanegbi will ask his faction to support a bill to permit the death penalty for terrorists, even if the state prosecutor has not asked for it. He will also ask that the chief of staff's right to pardon people who have been sentenced to death be taken away from him.

Labor Party MK Shevah Weiss opposes the death penalty and pointed out that it will not be possible to implement it because of international pressure and concern that it could set off acts of revenge.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 16 December quotes Labor Party leader Shim'on Peres as saying: "The deportations will radicalize the process taking place in the territories and will incite public opinion against us. We cannot operate by using a stick without offering a carrot. The government is using a policy of force, but without wisdom, Peres said." Citizens Rights Movement MK Yosi Sarid said his party opposes in principle the deportations of residents of the territories and any administrative punishment.]

Palestinians, Israeli Arabs React

TA1612074590 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Report by 'Ido Shargil]

[Text] For some 18 months the intifadah leadership has lived with the feeling that if they are arrested or shot, at least they will not have to undergo the punishment of deportation, which was regarded by the Palestinians as especially harsh. Most of the deportees lose contact with their relatives and receive only minor roles in the PLO. For the time being, the punishment has been given to relatively minor activists in the extremist Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. Nevertheless, the PLO leadership in the territories finds it hard to forget that because two of its members, Ziyad Abu-Zayyad and Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, were detained, they might be deported.

I would be surprised if I am deported, but this government could surprise anybody, Faysal al-Husayni said. He plans to appeal to the United States and the United Nations to apply pressure to stop the deportations. He said such punishment cannot solve any problems. Israel is dealing with the results of its control of the territories, instead of dealing with the problem itself and permitting the Palestinians the right to self-determination. It shows that the Shamir government is not interested in peace negotiations.

Fayiz Abu-Rahmah, a Gaza Strip resident, does not fear deportation. I do not have anything to do with terrorist actions and violence, he said. If they want to punish Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], it can be done through trials and detentions but not through deportations, he said.

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 16 December in a pool report on page 8 says that in Kafr Manda in the Galilee, Israeli Arab leaders condemned Friday's murder of three Jews in Yafo, "saying that such cold-blooded violence only served to increase hatred and tension on all sides—pushing peace further in the background."

[The report goes on to say that Muhammad Zaydan, spokesman for the national committee of heads of Arab local councils, stressed that the mass arrest of Hamas supporters and the proposed punitive measures "would not break the back of the uprising." He also said that "the introduction of the death penalty for terrorists convicted of nationalistically motivated murders would only lead to a wave of suicide attacks."]

Detained Arabs, MK's Condemn Killings

TA1612190990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] Radwan Abu-'Ayyash and Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, two leaders from the territories held in administrative detention, have issued a statement expressing extreme shock at the killings in Yafo. The statement was issued jointly with MAPAM [United Workers Party] Knesset Members [MK's] Hayim Oron and Husayn Faris.

Today the two MK's visited Abu-'Ayyash and Abu-Zayyad in their detention facility in Nabulus.

Rabin Opposes Death Penalty

TA1712071290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] Former Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is against the death penalty for terrorists. He has said that the implementation of this measure involves political complications and difficulties.

He does not think that deportation is an effective punishment either, although he used it dozens of times in the past. According to him, a comprehensive policy on security issues is required in view of the deterioration in domestic security, but no such policy has existed since the unity government was disbanded, said Yitzhaq Rabin.

Knesset Member Rabin also remarked that in view of the reality in Israel, the conclusion is that there is no room for Jews and Arabs in one political entity.

Likud Levels 'Unprecedented' Criticism

TA1712203890 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Excerpt] There was unprecedented criticism in the Likud Knesset faction leadership of the government's internal security policy. Our Knesset correspondent has learned that very harsh remarks were made at the meeting against the government.

Sara Doron, chairman of the Likud Knesset faction, said that we are living like we did in the diaspora, as we did in a ghetto, since the lives of Jews have become cheap. Knesset Member [MK] Eliahu Ben-Elisar, chairman of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, said: The government policy will lead us to lose Judaea and Samaria. MK Yiga'el Hurvitz said: We were told that when the Arabs start using firearms the rules of the game will change, but the rules have not changed because Mrs. Beinish [the state prosecutor] has taken over our leadership. [passage omitted]

Eytan: Seize Deportees in 'Middle of the Night'

TA1812075190 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] Minister Refa'el Eytan is calling for increasing the number of deportations of agitators from the territories, but for doing so very quietly and without notifying the media. Our correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz was speaking to Minister Eytan:

[Begin recording] [Horowitz] Minister Eytan says that the policy of deporting Arab instigators who incite the population of the territories should continue. According to Eytan, the aim should be to pursue such a policy quietly.

[Eytan] This is a correct and good move, albeit belated and on a small scale.

[Horowitz] So, what do you think should be done?

[Eytan] Such moves should be carried out all the time, without any hoopla, fuss, or publicity. What should be done is simple: Round them up in the middle of the night and dump them on the other side of the border, and let the press learn about it two weeks later.

[Horowitz] Minister Eytan was surprised by the American reaction to the deportations decided by Israel.

[Eytan] We can tell the United States exactly what the difference is between gunning people down and letting them live, but in some other place. The United States will understand this very well, since it does the same thing every day with people who have committed less serious crimes against the state. [end recording]

Territories Called 'Burden Israel Cannot Shoulder'

TA1612130690 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 Dec 90 p B1

[Editorial: "A Fundamental and Inevitable Conclusion"]

[Text] We get new shocks with each passing week, each worse than the last. We had not yet recovered from the murder of a passenger aboard a bus outside Bene Beraq when two Palestinian envoys of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] cold-bloodedly murdered three Jews in a small factory in Yafo. The perpetrators are being sought by all the security branches, but even if they are caught and given the harshest sentence we would be wrong in believing that harsher punishments will deter the members of an organization whose members take pride in the fatalities they inflict on the Jews. Notwithstanding the fact that political ideology does not detract from the gravity of a crime, the intifadah's criminal aspects can hardly be overcome if we continue to ignore its political nature.

Driven by a thirst for revenge, groups of youngsters and adults in south Tel Aviv began thrashing the Arabs they encountered in their way and the police labored very hard to curb them. Their emotional call of "Death to the Arabs" plays into the hands of the engineers of the murder. After all, it is Hamas' wish to turn the uprising against Israeli rule into a war between two nations. We can safely assume that Israeli Jews do not wish for such a war, not even when they all grieve for the victims.

Even Jews who were not overwhelmed with rage over the murder are plainly saying that they "do not want to see any more Arabs." When the agriculture minister says that all the workers from the administered territories should be fired and that unemployed Jews and new immigrants should be hired in their place, he is echoing a prevailing sentiment.

Assuming that the Israeli market is able to overcome the problem posed by the dismissal of over 100,000 Palestinians within a reasonable period of time, the military government and the Civil Administration would still have to cope with the unemployment which the closure of the Israeli work market would cause in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Not only would the resentment and frustration drive more youngsters to join the ranks of the terror organizations, but the Israeli Army could be called upon to deal with mass demonstrations of starved people. Does Refa'el Eytan really think that the Israeli Army would also be able to pass this test?

Those who propose depriving all Palestinians from holding jobs in Israel cannot go on supporting the annexation of the territories or of keeping them under Israeli rule forever. An ideology advocating either of these two positions for historic-religious or for security reasons is incompatible with the expulsion of Palestinians from the Jewish work market. The leaders of the parties which make up the current government must make up their minds as to whether Israel's rule over the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and a boycott on Arab work in Israel are contradictory. Not only politicians in the right wing, but also the masses supporting them must do that.

All plans of action based on the assumption that the intifadah can be curbed and terminated—magnetic cards, green identity cards, administrative detentions, exasperating roadblock checks—have proved futile; deportations and harsher punitive measures will not do the trick either. For the most part, the territories represent a burden Israel cannot shoulder.

If the government arrives at such a conclusion, then the time will come to discuss the question of who would these territories be handed over to and under what conditions. The government has been evading such a fundamental conclusion, which is inevitable. Voters who are frightened by Palestinian workers should now tell their elected leaders that they are not afraid of a territorial political concession and that they even prefer it to the status quo.

EC Said 'Ignoring' Arab Violence Against Jews

TA1712053990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] In Jerusalem, Foreign Minister Levi says Israel will not carry out massive deportations, but instead will concentrate on removing the key organizers of Palestinian violence. Levi said Israel would be more sensitive to foreign criticism, if the world was more willing to condemn violence against Jews.

Later, a Foreign Ministry spokesman echoed the same theme, when he expressed regret over the reaction of the EC over the multiple murder of Jews in Yafo last week. The EEC called on both sides in the Arab-Israel conflict to refrain from violence. Foreign Ministry spokesman Yosi 'Amihud said the EC is ignoring the Arab killing of Jews, as well as Israel's legitimate right to react to the violence.

Palestinian Temporarily Banned From Travel Abroad

TA1212195290 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] Interior Minister Arye Der'i signed an order banning Sari Nusaybah [a senior Palestinian notable] from any foreign travel for a period of three months. Our correspondent Uri Kohen-Aharonov was told that the decision was taken after the minister was presented with material that caused concern that Sari Nusaybah's departure from Israel could be harmful to state security. Sources at the Interior Ministry claimed that the material indicates Nusaybah's direct involvement in the issuing of leaflets on behalf of the Unified National Command of the Uprising.

Jewish Agency Stops Employing Territories Arabs

TA1812110890 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 18 Dec 90 p 10

[Report by Aryeh Dean Cohen]

[Excerpt] The Jewish Agency has ordered all Agency and WZO [World Zionist Organization] institutions to stop employing Arabs from the territories.

"We received a directive (about a month ago) from the Jewish Agency's Security Division forbidding us to employ Arabs from the territories, but saying that Arabs with Israeli identity cards could be employed," said Yona Betzal'eli, director of the Qiryat Moriya youth center in East Talpiyyot.

"In principle, a decision was taken to gradually reduce the number of workers from the territories in our institutions," Agency spokesman Gad Ben-Ari said. "The matter is being done and will be done only out of security considerations."

Ben-Ari saw no parallels between the Agency's decision and that by private employers in Jerusalem and elsewhere to replace their Arab employees.

"There's no connection between the two," he said.

"There was no political or ideological background to this decision, and we view steps such as those taken by certain shopkeepers in Jerusalem as being totally unacceptable."

Ben-Ari said that the decision was taken after consultations with security officials. He added that the matter had been brought up "in the past few weeks." [passage omitted]

'Tighter Control' Restricts Palestinian Travel

TA1812102190 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Dec 90 p A1

[Report by military affairs correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpt] The defense establishment has decided to intensify controls over residents of the territories traveling abroad and to step up sanctions against Palestinians who travel overseas to raise funds for the intifadah. The decision was made in the wake of the Yafo killings as part of a policy of tighter control over the Palestinian population.

Defense sources noted that Civil Administration will be responsible for implementing the new policy. The ban on travel abroad will mainly be applied in the cases of hundreds of residents who are either identified with terrorist organizations or assist them in various ways.

According to them, many residents raise money abroad to finance the uprising: "It is impossible to put them all in jail or to deport hundreds of Palestinians, but we certainly can make departure for other countries more difficult and tighten the control on the exit bridges."

Requests for foreign travel are submitted daily, mainly by people wishing to visit relatives, study, or receive medical treatment abroad, primarily in Arab countries and in Britain. The defense sources said yesterday that every resident who wants to travel abroad to receive medical treatment for himself or his family will receive a permit. [passage omitted]

Haifa Area Druze Fear Intifadah 'Hit List'

TA1712113590 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 17 Dec 90 p 1

[Report by Western Galilee correspondent Nati Kay-Zilberman]

[Excerpt] Druze notables have recently turned to the police affairs minister, the defense minister, and the commander of the Haifa District Police with a request to step up security measures in the Druze villages on the Carmel. They have complained that the members of the strike forces in the territories have prepared a hit list of Druze who serve in the security forces. [passage omitted]

Government To Seek Absorption Aid From Germany

TA1612093290 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 Dec 90 p A1

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpt] The difficulties in securing U.S. aid for the absorption of Soviet immigrants will soon lead to a search for other sources of credit, a senior political source has stated. Toward early January, Israel will begin official talks with the German Government in the hope of receiving 1.5 billion Deutsche marks, the same amount Israel had demanded in reparations from the East German Government prior to the unification.

Israel hopes Germany will also extend grants and other loans. Foreign Minister David Levi will visit Bonn next February to discuss the matter with German leaders. [passage omitted]

Immigration of Ethiopian Jews 'in Full Swing'

TA1712113290 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 17 Dec 90 pp 1, 8

[Report by Bill Hutman]

[Excerpt] The long delayed immigration of Ethiopian Jewry now appears to be in full swing. Starting in January, about 1,500 Ethiopian Jews will be granted exit visas each month, Jewish Agency sources said yesterday. Some 600 are expected this month.

The Agency expects the immigration to Israel of most of the remaining 20,000 Ethiopian Jews to be completed in just over a year. The assessment is based on a recent meeting between Israeli and Ethiopian officials in Washington.

Ethiopian immigration was held up most of the year, despite an agreement on the matter between Israel and Ethiopia. Since October, however, about 500 Ethiopians have arrived monthly. [passage omitted]

UNRWA Denies Interfering With Security Work

TA1312142790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] A spokesman for UNRWA [UN Relief and Works Agency] in the Gaza Strip has rejected the Civil Administration's allegations that UNRWA workers interfere with the security forces and their work, follow the security forces, and occasionally even serve as a buffer between rioters and soldiers. The spokesman told our correspondent Arye Gus that it is the duty of his colleagues to guard UNRWA's installations and help evacuate casualties and rejected allegations that other UN personnel participate in UNRWA's activities.

Togo Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks

TA1712054890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] The foreign minister of Togo has arrived in Israel. Minister Yaovi Adodo said that his country is trying to maintain good relations with both Israel and the PLO and believes that dialogue will resolve the Arab-Israel conflict. Adodo made the statement upon arrival at Ben-Gurion Airport, where he was met by Foreign Minister David Levi. Togo renewed diplomatic relations with Israel three years ago.

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 17 December in a report on page 2 adds that Adodo is in Israel for "a week of talks with senior officials. During the visit, Israel and Togo are to sign protocols defining bilateral cooperation in science, technology, commerce, agriculture and education."]

Meets Levi, Comments on Iraq

TA1712124390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi has said that the firepower of Iraq's deadly arsenal and its 1.5 million-strong Army are primarily a threat to Israel. He stressed that any resolution of the Gulf crisis that would leave Saddam Husayn's military power intact would put the Middle East, and even Europe, in danger. Foreign Minister Levi made these statements to the foreign minister of Togo, who is currently visiting Israel.

U.S. Stand on Israeli Deportations Criticized

JN1712141690 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
17 Dec 90 p 1, 20

[Editorial: "U.S. Hypocrisy"]

[Text] The United States has condemned the Zionist authorities' decision to deport a number of Palestinian citizens from their homeland. This condemnation confirms the essence of the U.S. policy based on hypocrisy and double standards. For more than two weeks the United Nations has been trying to pass a resolution through the Security Council calling for the protection of the Palestinians. Washington, however, in agreement with Moscow, has been postponing a vote on the draft resolution and threatening to use the veto against it if members of the Council insist on passing it. Nevertheless, the United States condemns the Zionist authorities' decision to deport Palestinian citizens from their homeland.

The U.S. condemnation is a naive U.S. attempt to march in the funeral procession of its victims and shed crocodile tears over them while affirming total support for the murderer's deed. From this perspective, it seems to be a condemnation which does not express a moral position as much as it expresses a sadist, racist stance. Through refusing to protect the Palestinian people in their own homeland and condemning their deportation from their country, Washington seems to want a unified Zionist policy which is to kill off the Palestinians rather than deport them, and practice all forms of oppression against them instead of sending them to join the ranks of the Muslim and Arab millions outside Palestine who are following up with great hatred and a desire for confrontation and vengence what the U.S. Zionist alliance is doing against our nation and homeland.

Washington's condemnation of the Zionist deportation decision was not meant to express rejection over Israel's practices that violate all principles and charters, but to express the U.S. refusal to allow even four Palestinians to be rescued from the acts of oppression, killing, and annihilation which the enemy, Washington's strategic ally, is carrying out against our Palestinian Arab people. In this context, one can understand the statements made by the U.S. secretary of defense a few days ago about the U.S. objective behind destroying the Iraqi force being to protect Israel. These statements are so clear and frank that they leave no opportunity for anyone to see any space between what the United States wants and what the Zionist authorities want regarding the Arab homeland and its people.

There remains to point out that what the Palestinian people want after 42 years of the first setback and 23 years of the second is their right to security, justice, and sovereignty, and not more crocodile tears, especially those tears that fall on our wounds and those of the Palestinian people like grains of salt to charge us with even greater hatred, grudges, and a total and deep desire for confrontation and revenge.

The latest U.S. condemnation of the decision to deport Palestinians from their homeland is proof of this U.S. hypocrisy and double standards—which wants to indicate sadness over the deportation decision, and yet vehemently refuse any resolution that calls for protecting the Palestinians in their occupied homeland.

U.S. Fleet's Actions in Red Sea Criticized

JN1812105890 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
18 Dec 90 p 22

["Everyday" column by Tariq Masarwah: "The Yemenis in the Red Sea"]

[Text] The U.S. fleet in the Red Sea also has Yemen as well as Jordan on its blacklist. For the third time, this fleet has returned to the port of al-'Aqaba a ship carrying Yemeni nationals who were returning home.

The reason advanced by the U.S. fleet is that these nationals were taking with them their cars which carry Kuwaiti and Iraqi license plates, as if those coming from Kuwait or Baghdad should put American plates on their cars.

This has nothing to do with the blockade imposed on Iraq. It is an American attempt to enforce a blockade on the will of the Arab people in Jordan and Yemen. For instance, similar ships transporting vehicles with Kuwaiti and Iraqi license plates left the port of al-'Aqabah for Egyptian ports and managed to arrive there without being obstructed by the U.S. fleet. The military personnel of the U.S. fleet do not have a blacklist or a red one when commercial ships are heading to or leaving Egyptian ports.

The U.S. objective is to besiege the will of the Arabs who reject the U.S. invasion of the region and to create acute economic and psychological problems for every Arab country whose people are free and in which people can open their mouths for something other than food, dental treatment, and yawning. He who reads the (press) reports released by official U.S. propaganda centers in Amman or Sanaa notes that emphasis is laid on the volume of the economic losses Jordan sustained as a result of the Gulf crisis. However, what these reports never say is that the U.S. military buildup and the war threats are what caused the labor exodus from Kuwait and Iraq, that the friends of the United States are those who are expelling Arabs and hosting soldiers of conquest and aggression, and that the U.S. fleet is the party which throws Jordanian imports into the sea and forces ships carrying Jordan-bound commodities to empty their cargoes at the ports of Jeddah and Port Said where they are sold by auction.

We spoke earlier about the U.S. Embassy's activities among Jordanian merchants and industrialists to convince them that Jordan is a small country and that its polices go against its interests. It is almost certain that similar activities are being carried out nowadays in Sanaa, Khartoum, and Tunis. After failing to recruit the

Jordanian, Yemeni, Tunisian, Palestinian, and Sudanese press through the use of corrupt oil money, the U.S. embassies in these countries took it upon themselves to do the job, along with the U.S. fleet which has undertaken to play a role in parallel with that of the embassies. The first and ultimate objective is to lay siege to Arab will and to force the Arabs rejecting the U.S.-Atlantic invasion into the Hafr al-Batin trench.

As for our Yemeni brothers who were returned for the third time from the Straits of Tiran to the port of al-'Aqabah, they have firsthand knowlege of the truth regarding the hostile U.S. imperialist intentions and thus feel enormous rancor toward the arrogance of the U.S. might. One day, they will return home to spread along with their brother returnees the spirit of pan-Arab rebellion epitomized by Iraq, the spirit of confrontation held aloft by Iraq, and the determination to remain steadfast displayed by Iraq. The free woman would rather starve than offer her body for sale in order to eat.

Al-Qasim Confers With U.S. Delegation

JN1812095790 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1620 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] Amman, 17 Dec (PETRA)—Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, reviewed with the heads of the U.S. churches' delegation the situation in the region, especially developments in the Gulf crisis and His Majesty King Husayn's continued endeavors to find a peaceful solution so as to spare the region the dangers of a military confrontation and to guarantee the legitimate rights of all parties.

Al-Qasim also referred to conditions in the occupied Arab territories, explaining that no comprehensive and lasting peace can be reached in the region unless a just solution to the Palestinian question is reached that will guarantee an end to the Israeli occupation and enable the Palestinian people to obtain their independence on their national soil.

Badran Returns to Amman From Damascus 17 Dec

JN1712213090 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Mudar Badran returned to Amman this evening after conveying an verbal message from His Majesty King Husayn to His Excellency Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on what is taking place in the Arab region. [passage omitted]

Bendjedid Expected To Continue Gulf 'Mission'

JN1712100290 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 17 Dec 90 pp 1, 4

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Lamis K. Andoni]

[Text] Amman—Arab officials and analysts still see hope in the success of Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid's mission to explore the basis of an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis despite failure so far of efforts to bring about a top level Iraqi-Saudi Arabian meeting.

Well-placed officials expect Bendjedid to return to Algeria soon and plan on a trip to either Riyadh or even Washington in an Arab attempt to break the deadlock between Iraq and the United States and to heal the rift in the Arab ranks over the Gulf crisis.

"I expect him to finish his tour and go back to Algeria. Then he will go either to Riyadh or Washington," a senior Jordanian official told the Jordan Times Sunday.

Bendjedid, who was visited Amman, Baghdad, Tehran, Muscat and Damascus, went to Beirut Sunday to confer with Lebanese leaders. He was scheduled to visit Cairo which might be the last leg of his tour in a mission to start an Arab-Arab dialogue to find an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis.

An Iraqi-Saudi meeting is viewed by officials and analysts as the key to the success of Bendjedid's efforts but Jordanian officials said that the Algerian mission cannot be considered a failure.

"The failure of realising an Iraqi-Saudi summit is definitely a setback but one cannot say that the mission has been a failure," said one senior Jordanian official.

Analysts said that if Bendjedid went to Saudi Arabia he might pave the way for a substantive Arab-Arab dialogue. But if he went to Washington then Algeria will play a mediatoring [as published] role between Baghdad and the American administration.

"But Washington will then be the spokesman for its Arab allies and the inter-Arab dialogue will be conducted through Washington," one politician pointed out.

During a speech in Amman on Saturday, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasir 'Arafat indirectly accused the U.S.' Arab allies of becoming a "chorus" repeating Washington's tunes.

"I prefer to address the giants... (the U.S. and the Soviet Union)... there is no need to address their boys... there is no need to address the chorus regardless if they speak Hebrew (Israel) or in Arabic," he told thousands who packed the Royal Cultural Centre. 'Arafat was distributing the Jerusalem Medal for outstanding Jordanian thinkers, poets, novelists and researchers.

The cancellation of Bendjedid's visit to Riyadh, which was originally expected to take place at the outset of his tour, remains a controversial episode.

In fact there are at least three accounts of why the visit did not take place. According to the first the U.S. pressured the Saudi government to renege on a prior pledge to receive Bendjedid. One senior Arab official told the Jordan Times that Bendjedid was only notified of the cancellation of the trip upon his arrival in

Amman. "Bendjedid was told by European channels that Washington had asked Riyadh not to receive him," the official said.

Other Jordanian officials did not confirm or deny this account. But analysts noted that the next day after Bendjedid visited here Prime Minister Mudar Badran accused foreign powers of obstructing the inter-Arab dialogue.

Some Arab diplomats, however, contend that Bendjedid did not have any confirmation when he left his country whether he will be received in Riyadh in spite of prior Saudi-Algerian consultations. According to a diplomat, King Fahd's advisor Shaykh 'Al al-Muslim, who was recently in Algeria, did not make promises about Riyadh's acceptance of a Bendjedid visit.

Well-informed Arab sources with good contacts with the Saudi government said Riyadh was not ready to allow any mediation if there were no strong indications of an Iraqi intention to withdraw from Kuwait. The source said that an Iraqi promise to withdraw—conveyed through Algeria—might be enough to set the stage for a Saudi-Iraqi summit.

But other knowledgeable Arab analysts argue that Washington would not allow a Saudi-Iraqi dialogue for such an eventuality would foster Baghdad's bargaining position.

Baghdad at the same time is not ready to promise that it would withdraw from Kuwait. Obviously it sees such a pledge as possibly undermining its position prior to the projected Iraqi-American dialogue, they said.

Over the last week Iraq has stepped up its hardline rhetoric reiterating that Kuwait was an indivisible part of Iraq but Arab official said that it reflected Baghdad's campaign to press the U.S. for proper negotiations of the problems that plague the region.

Baghdad has already said it was suspending the scheduled visit by Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz to Washington amid speculation that the projected dialogue between the two might not materialise.

But Arab and Jordanian officials do not seem discouraged by the continuing disagreement over the dates of the scheduled two American-Iraqi meetings.

"I do not believe the idea (of dialogue) is killed. It is just that both sides are jockeying for a better position," one senior Jordanian official said.

Netherlands Airline KLM Suspends Amman Route

JN1612065390 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 16 Dec 90 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—The Dutch airlines KLM announced Saturday that it would stop its flights to and from Amman as of the coming month, becoming the third foreign airline to do so this year.

British Airways (BA) ended its flights in March and announced that Royal Jordanian (RJ) would be acting on its behalf; Swissair ended operations completely by Nov. 30, 1990.

BA said, upon announcing that it stopped flying to Amman, that the move was taken due to poor business. Under the agreement with the Jordanian airline, RJ act on behalf of British Airways on the Amman-London route, transporting passengers on behalf of the British carrier and will also maintain and service BA TriStar aircraft at its hangars located at the Queen Alia International Airport.

No similar deal was announced between RJ and Swissair which used to operate by-weekly flights between Zurich and Amman.

In announcing its end of operations KLM said that the measure was temporary and prompted by economic losses incurred by the Dutch Airline.

KLM's statement said:

Due to the Gulf crisis and other adverse economic developments such as loss in value of U.S. dollar, fuel cost increases, additional insurance fees etc. KLM regrets to announce that it expects a serious loss in the current financial year. Therefore the board of KLM is looking for cost reductions wherever possible.

One of the decisions made is to suspend temporarily services to almost 10 destinations in Europe and the Middle East.

Regretfully Amman will therefore lose KLM's weekly flight temporarily due to the adverse economical circumstances.

The above sad news was conveyed by KLM's Vice President and Area Manager for the Middle East Bram Steller and General Manager for KLM Jordan Najib Fakhuri to the relevant authorities.

They made it a point to give the full background of this decision to both Director General of Civil Aviation Authority Mahmud Jamal Balqaz and to President/Chief Executive Officer of Royal Jordanian Husam Abu Ghazalah.

The suspension of flights will take effect as from January 5, 1991. KLM can still be reached through their office in King Husayn Street in Amman.

Alitalia, the Italian airline, suspended flights to and from Amman on Oct. 24 and, according to an airline office spokesmen, flights will resume by April 1991.

Jordan has been severely affected by the Gulf crisis and by its compliance with U.N. imposed sanctions against Iraq, and so far has not received substantial financial assistance.

zTourism is one major sector which was affected by the crisis, prompting the Ministry of Tourism last month to announce plans to help stimulate domestic tourism.

Termination of foreign airlines operations reflected a sharp decline in the number of tourists and travellers to and from Jordan this year, according to tourism officials.

They said that nearly 30 per cent of tourists to Jordan last year came from Europe, especially from Finland; Finns are mostly coming to al-'Aqabah and have done so every winter for the past four years.

Editorial Urges 'Honest' Efforts for Dialogue

JN1712125790 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 17 Dec 90 p 16

[Editorial: "Why This Stubborn Insistence on Obstructing Inter-Arab Dialogue?"]

[Text] It seems that the stubborn U.S. position, which categorically rejects any Arab role that may have some weight in solving the Gulf crisis, continues to influence the stances of some Arab capitals and press them to block any Arab effort in this direction.

It seems that the calls by honorable Arabs to start an inter-Arab dialogue have received a response from the EEC countries even before they reached the ears of some Arab leaders, who can no longer bear hearing the Arab voice, and prefer the sound of the war drums beaten by the Bush administration.

The EEC countries have realized before some of the Arab countries standing in the American trench that the Bush administration's singlehandedness in dealing with the Gulf dispute could explode in a war that would span the entire region, including all the vital interests of the West. They took the initiative to demand a strong Arab role in solving the crisis before it erupts. They also took the initiative on their own to start a dialogue with Baghdad in light of the dialogue between Baghdad and Washington.

What draws our attention here is that before it could lose its grip on the reigns after the energetic Arab action calling for an Arab solution, the Bush administration rushed to practice all forms of pressure on its followers among the Arab regimes and force them to thwart and block any Arab effort that could create the appropriate atmosphere start an inter-Arab dialogue.

In fact, honest Arab efforts to start this dialogue have virtually come to a dead end. Despite this, the Arab voice calling for an inter-Arab dialogue and an influential, effective Arab role in the crisis must remain strong, resonant, and clearly heard throughout official and popular Arab circles, as well as in the international arena. This honest Arab voice must overcome all the insurmountable barriers and obstacles placed by some regimes in their way.

This is so because this honest and pure Arab voice can only be closer to the minds and hearts of the sons of our people and the consciences of the peace-loving forces than the voices of those calling for a fatal war.

In addition, if Iraq is extending its hand for peace out of its concern for the present and future of this nation and its concern for averting a destructive war in the region, it is not doing so from a position of weakness or fear, but from a position of power and capability. It is prepared at all times and ready to enter the battle at the time the Bush administration and its allies choose to do so.

Further on King Husayn's Paris TV Interview

JN1712200390 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1835 GMT 17 Dec 90

["Full text" of interview with King Husayn by Veronique Taveau of Paris Antenne 2 Television in Amman on 16 Dec; in English—recorded]

[Text] [Taveau] There is only one month before the ultimatum fixed by the United Nations. In Your Majesty's opinion, is it possible to reach a solution within four weeks?

[Husayn] If there is a real commitment to a peaceful solution to the problem, I believe it is possible. If, on the other hand, this is not the case, then obviously the future is very, very bleak and very dangerous.

[Taveau] How do you see that future right now?

[Husayn] I am always an optimist, and I hope that logic and reason will prevail, and also goodwill. But at the same time, I am really concerned because of two elements that are missing so far, one of which is an Arab-Arab dialogue—a dialogue between the parties immediately concerned—something I have been trying to create from the very outset, and yet I have been blocked in terms of all the efforts I have made so far, as have others; and the other is, obviously a dialogue between the world as represented by the United States in this particular crisis and Iraq, instead of a dialogue over the airwaves, as has been the case so far. So, I am still hopeful that maybe something can happen and develop.

[Taveau] The actual mediation of President Chadli Bendjedid with whom you had very long talks when he arrived here in Jordan seem now stopped because Saudi Arabia has so far refused to welcome him and to talk with him. Do you think that the Americans refuse an Arab mediation?

[Husayn] I believe that there have been obstacles placed in the path of this Arab-Arab dialogue from the outset. I was certainly involved in that. At the very beginning we tried to secure and we managed to get a date for the beginning of an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait within the first 48 hours of the invasion of Kuwait, and also an agreement to attend a mini-sumit in Jeddah in Saudi

Arabia, but of course this was contingent on no precipitous action by the Arab League, and one that would involve laying the groundwork and preparing for the international involvement in this particular crisis. Unfortunately, all this came to naught when the Arab League moved, and on the other hand, when troops began to arrive in the area. Since then, there has been another attempt when I was invited by His Majesty King Hassan of Morocco and I met with President Chadli there as well. Again our effort was thwarted, and I believe that the president's recent effort—President Chadli Bendjedid's—is along the same lines I have advocated. I fully support these attempts, and we will continue to try, and I hope that this is not the end of the story, that he will continue and we will continue to talk within the region. And I do not see why we should not be permitted to talk to each other when the matter concerns the future of the Arab people and this entire region.

[Taveau] But do you see the Algerian mediation as succeeding right now, or are you more pessimistic about it?

[Husayn] I honestly cannot say at this stage. But obviously the anticipation of all of us was that when President Chadli was in this region he would be able to visit all sides involved in the problem, including our brethren in Saudi Arabia, and this was not possible, this time. However, I hope that he will continue and I will try to keep in touch with him to see what we could do towards contributing towards this Arab-Arab dialogue and the resolution of the problems that precipitated this particular crisis.

[Taveau] Yes, but in the region we are running short of time.

[Husayn] I know we are, I know we are. I am aware of that very, very much.

[Taveau] Do you feel very, very much concerned about the situation?

[Husayn] Extremely concerned.

[Taveau] So, can we say that today you are rather pessimistic or optimistic?

[Husayn] I am a born optimist, but I am very, very concerned at this stage, with all that I have seen and all that I am aware of.

[Taveau] It has been said here in Jordan that the Americans were sabotaging the discussion, negotiation, and maybe the dialogue. Do you agree with that?

[Husayn] I believe it is a fact that there has been what appears to be an American resentment of any dialogue between the parties directly concerned, lest it affect adversely whatever position or stance the United States has, and I would say in its position as a prominent—or, the prominent—moving element at the Security Council and in the world now.

[Taveau] To you, Your Majesty, what do the Americans really want in the region? Do they only care for oil, do they only care for international order, or do they want more than that?

[Husayn] I would hope that they are concerned for international legitimacy and, if that is the case, then there is another problem, that has been with us for 23 years now, of a similar nature—but a problem that requires the attention of the world on its own merits—and that is the Palestinian-Israeli problem, the Arab-Israeli problem, and I certainly hope that it will be demonstrated that the world is concerned to ensure that international legitimacy applies everywhere. We are against the occupation of Kuwait, we are against annexation of territory by war—or as a result of war—this has been our stance regarding the Palestinian problem and the occupied territories of Palestine and other Arab states. It has been our position over the Cyprus crisis, our position over the Falklands. We could not contradict ourselves now.

But on the other hand, we have been working for years with Europe, with the rest of the world, and trying to persuade the United States to accept the idea of an international conference under the auspices of the five permanent members of the Security Council, the secretary general of the United Nations, and with the participation of all parties to the conflict, including obviously the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, the PLO, to resolve this problem. And I don't see why it should continue to wait any further, because if this is resolved, then the other problem will also be resolved, and hopefully, it will, and we can move to another era—that of dealing with weapons of mass destruction in the entire region, and their removal, and hopefully, to an era of peace and stability and cohesion and cooperation; of democracy and respect for human rights; of a reassessment by one and all of all the policies and approaches of the past; of popular participation in every state in the area in shaping the destiny and the future of the entire region.

[Taveau] But, Your Majesty, what are the intentions of the Americans right now?

[Husayn] I have no idea. I have no idea. I hope it is for peace and for the resolution of problems in this region, and the contribution that the United States, if it wished, could make—if it was able to, could make—on the moral level in dealing with all problems in this region, together with the rest of the world, obviously.

[Taveau] Apparently, Israel got guarantees from Washington that there won't be a new link between the resolution of your crisis in the Gulf and international peace conference on the Israel-Arab conflict? How do you see that attitude of the American and the Israeli?

[Husayn] I believe that no one is aware of what might happen if this area erupted in a state of war. The human dimensions of the tragedy, the human losses—I cannot predict what they could be. I could not predict when the very deep wounds that would be created, not only in the Arab world but in the Arab and Muslim world and the rest of the world, could ever be healed. The economic shock at this very precarious time in the world that would affect the world as a whole; the ecological disaster, or its magnitude. But, on the other hand, it is so important to also realize that everybody is puzzled, everybody is waiting, everybody is drawing conclusions, particularly since the United States and Israel are strategic allies. So, it's been difficult so far. But if war erupts, I believe that we would be standing at a precipice and nobody knows exactly how it will all come out.

[Taveau] Apparently, there won't be any dialogue between Iraqis and Americans so far. What do you think of that?

[Husayn] Obviously, the dialogue was a very welcome suggestion by us, and by many in the world. And, I believe that the time frame for both the Iraqi visit to Washington and the American visit of the secretary of state to Iraq were within the timeframe suggested by the Americans initially. I hope they will work out some way of resolving the problem when they meet. But, a dialogue is important—continuous dialogue is important, and certainly a very important element, even contained within Security Council Resolution 660 is the Arab dialogue, and that is what we would be trying to work, despite tremendous difficulties.

[Taveau] Yesterday, Francois Mitterrand said that Iraq was risking war with the United States by failing to set a date for talks [word indistinct] Washington. Do you share that fear?

[Husayn] I share with the president the fear that people seem to be taking the issue of war as something which is much simpler in their view, in their perspective, from what it actually could be. War in this area could be a tremendous disaster. It will solve very little, and certainly, it is no substitute for a solution of problems through dialogue and through peace.

[Taveau] How does Your Majesty see the position of France so far on the crisis?

[Husayn] I have had the privilege of visiting France twice since the crisis broke out, and I certainly have a great respect for the president. And I have had the privilege of a continuous dialogue and friendship with many many elements within France, and France is one of our hopes to uphold ideals and principles in dealing with our problems in this region.

[Taveau] What do you expect from France, concretely?

[Husayn] The stand on morality, the stand on issues that require justice, and the avoidance of dealing with problems with double standards, and a commitment, as we have, on the cause of peace, stability, and security of this entire region, and, therefore, the world.

[Taveau] Do you have a special message to send to the French people?

[Husayn] My admiration and my respect, and the friendship that we all have in our hearts and in our souls here in Jordan and in the Arab world for France and the people of France.

[Taveau] To Your Majesty, is Saddam Husayn ready to a partial withdrawal from Kuwait, and maybe ready to compromise, to make any compromise?

[Husayn] I believe that, at the very outset, it was very, very clear that he was, as a leader of Iraq, ready for withdrawal from Kuwait. That was the commitment he made to me within the first 48 hours of the crisis. If the path of dialogue had been followed within the narrower Arab context to resolve the problems that brought about the disaster in the first event, if that was the case, I believe then that the possibilities were always there. Obviously the situation has been complicated by the escalation on both sides to this point. But I hope, somehow, that a solution will be found to it, that is satisfactory to all.

[Taveau] You seem to be rather close to Saddam Husayn. You have been to Baghdad several times. Are you ready to go there again before 15 January?

[Husayn] I have no intention or plan at this time to visit Baghdad within this timeframe. I do not know; if anything else develops where I feel I could be constructive, then I would. I have tried my utmost to approach this problem not as an individual, not as a head of the state of Jordan representing my people and their hopes, but that there should be an Arab effort, and that we should all be a part of it. And we have been in touch, as a result, with many of our brethren, including our brethren in Algeria, and obviously Morocco and Oman and many other parts of the Arab world, Yemen, Sudan, and others. We have tried to, although we stand very firmly on the principles regarding the inadmissibility of acquisition of territory by war, or the annexation in this case, what has happened to Kuwait—but we have tried to keep the possibilities of acting and moving constructively to resolve this problem, and we will continue to do so.

[Taveau] It has been said that there were underground negotiations, even direct talks between Saudi Arabia and Iraq. Is it a new rumor or can you confirm that?

[Husayn] I cannot confirm that or deny it. I am not aware of it. I am not involved in it, sadly.

[Taveau] EC approved yesterday in Rome a resolution calling for international conference on the Middle East at an appropriate time. How do you see this initiative?

[Husayn] I welcome it, although I think an appropriate time would have been ages ago, and an appropriate time is today; an appropriate time is as soon as possible. I hope that this can be defined.

[Taveau] There has been a slight change in the European position towards the Gulf crisis. How do you explain the change now?

[Husayn] In what respect?

[Taveau] Apparently, there is a division between Europe and the United States and the Europeans are not that close now to the United States, and closer to the Arab camp. Do you see any change?

[Husayn] I welcome the European attitude because I believe it has a perspective of the actual facts on the ground. It is not trying to crisis-manage the situation, but it also has, I believe, a view over the present and over the future of the region and obviously a concern to seek solutions that are long lasting and that are meaningful, and we welcome that.

[Taveau] Do you think that, after the crisis there could be an Arab unity again, or do you see that as impossible?

[Husayn] If the crisis is resolved peacefully, the Arab-Israeli problems, the Palestinian problem, is addressed adequately, then obviously we will move to another phase, which is that of removing weapons of mass destruction from a very broad region, the entire region. And I believe that there will be a chance after all this has settled down; that is the course that will follow for people to reassess and there will be a greater emphasis on democracy, on true freedoms, our respect for human rights, popular participation, which are guarantees for stability and for progress. And I believe that, hopefully, out of all this we can begin a new era of cooperation and trust and cohesion in the entire region, for a better future for all peoples within the region and the world.

[Taveau] We are getting closer to Christmas now. What kind of peace message could you send to the world?

[Husayn] My warmest wishes on behalf of all Jordanians for peace, for the respect of principles and ideals that are worthy and our upholding of them for a better future for mankind. And hopefully, this applies obviously to all in this area. We are committed to the cause of the future for generations to come, and I hope and pray that all of us at this critical time can contribute towards that objective and let this world live and survive and that we will be judged well by those who are to follow after us.

[Taveau] Saddam Husayn said to us two weeks ago that chance of war and peace were 50-50.

[Husayn] I always hope that the chances of peace, peace with justice, with human dignity, a peace that meets human aspirations will have the upper percentage of chances in every event and every case. But I am very, very deeply concerned as things stand.

Minister Discusses Countering Water Shortages

JN1712113390 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Jawad al-'Umari dispatch from Jordanian Parliament in Amman]

[Excerpts] Engineer Dawud Khalaf, minister of irrigation and water resources, has stated that in the year 2000, water and not oil will be the scarce commodity, especially in the Middle East region where the geographic, climatic, and geological circumstances intermingle with the political circumstances and neighborly relations to limit the water resources, in addition to the increasing development in the field of irrigated farming, the largest consumer of water, which takes up to 75 percent of the available water.

In his statement to the House of Representatives last night, the minister said the water strategy lies in continuing the search for new sources of water and in providing water for drinking, industry, and irrigation. It also lies in controlling the administration of resources and their efficient utilization, reusing treated sewage water for irrigation purposes, protecting the existing resources from contamination, continuing to search for cheap sources of energy to desalinate water, and adopting new technological methods for extracting and using water, particularly in the field of irrigated farming. He said present consumption amounts to 730 million cubic meters annually, which is expected to rise to 1,120 million cubic meters by the year 2005. He indicated that our average consumption of water falls below the so-called water poverty line and this is expected to continue in the future. [passage omitted]

The minister added that his ministry has worked out an urgent program to implement the first stage of its strategy by digging new subterranean wells, preparing an ecological study of the al-Wahdah Dam project, implementing the water harvest program, building the al-Yabis and Kufrinjah Dams, heightening the al-Kafrayn Dam, completing studies on a number of dams, inviting tenders to build the al-Wala Dam, exploiting wells in that region, implementing the al-Disah water transportation project, and replacing worn pipe networks to reduce wastage. He said that subterranean water is threatened by salination and depletion as a result of exceeding the safe limits of extraction and because the region is witnessing a hydrological cycle characterized by rainfall shortages and water scarcity. Therefore, he said, the ministry will continue to rationalize the distribution of domestic and irrigation water, stop licensing subterranean wells, and tighten control over the quantities of water extracted from private sector wells. He hoped that this strategy would attain its goals and that all efforts would be pooled to conserve water, rationalize consumption, and deal with the current water situation with responsibility and rationality. [passage omitted]

Minister Views Difficulties Financing Dam

JN1712105690 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 17 Dec 90 p 1

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—The minister of water and irrigation, Mr. Dawud Khalaf, Sunday told the Lower House of Parliament that Jordan was finding difficulties to secure financing for the al-Wahdah Dam, planned to be built across the al-Yarmuk River on the borders between Syria and Jordan.

"The World Bank and other financiers are following delaying tactics," the minster said in a statement to the House about the water situation in the Kingdom.

"We have started contacts to find other sources of funding," he said, adding that the cost of the project would be JD [Jordanian dinars] 250 million.

In a statement supported by figures, tables and statistics, Khalaf said Jordan's consumption of water, which stands at 730 million cubic metres annually, would rise by the year 2005 to 1,120 million cubic metres. He said he expected that with demand growing for water in all sectors water for irrigation might be reduced to meet demands for domestic purposes.

The minister said water rationing would continue to be one of the key measures of the ministry to conserve water.

Earlier in the session, the House debated and passed the law of judicial independence. During the lengthy debate, one deputy, Dr. Ahmad al-Kawfahi (Muslim Brotherhood, Irbid) left the chamber in protest against the speaker preventing him from raising a point.

Al-Kawfahi, a member of the House Legal Committee that approved the law, had, together with six other members, all Muslim Brothers, made reservations concerning Article 7 of the law. The seven wanted the article, which specifies an oath to be taken by judges comprising the Higher Council of Justice, be rephrased to give more emphasis to Islam being the source of laws.

Their reservation, however, was not debated and Speaker 'Abd-al- Latif 'Arabiyat hurried put the article to vote. This resulted in a number of deputies, from different blocs, to criticise the speaker for not giving a chance for the proposal of the seven. 'Arabiyat later made a gesture of apology to al-Kawfahi.

German Deputy Departs After Talks With King

JN1812095190 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1610 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] Amman, 17 Dec (PETRA)—Hans-Juergen Wischnewski, German Parliament member and Socialist International commissioner for the Middle East, left Amman for home this morning after a visit to Jordan lasting several days during which he met with His Majesty King Husayn and His Highness Crown Prince Hasan for talks on ways to achieve a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis.

He was seen off at the airport by Dr. Khalid 'Ubaydat, director of the Political Department of the Foreign Ministry, and the German charge d'affaires in Amman.

'Sources' Cited on Possible Hostage Release

NC1812110590 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 17 Dec 90 p 7

[Text] Informed sources have noted the possibility that a number of foreign hostages held in Lebanon may be released on the occasion of Christmas and the New Year. The sources indicated that contacts regarding these hostages have made important progress toward closing this file.

IDF Clashes With 'Terrorists' Throughout South

In Western Sector

TA1612173690 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] A terrorist was killed and two IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers sustained moderate injuries in a clash between an IDF unit and a terrorist squad in the western sector of the security zone this morning. The wounded soldiers' families have been notified. Our correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz has more details:

The clash occurred four km north of Zar'it, in the vicinity of the village of Ramyah inside the security zone. IDF troops spotted a terrorist squad making its way to the Israeli-Lebanese border fence. One of the squad members was killed in the exchange of fire; two terrorists, one of whom was wounded, escaped. Two IDF soldiers sustained moderate injuries. They received first aid on the spot and were first transferred to the state hospital in Nahariyya and later flown by helicopter to Rambam Hospital in Haifa.

Major General Yosi Peled, Northern Command commander, came to the site of the incident and debriefed the troops. A Kalashnikov rifle, a flak jacket, and a LAW [light antitank weapon] rocket were found near the terrorist's body. The preliminary debriefing revealed that the terrorists had fired a LAW rocket at the IDF troops, wounding two.

In exactly the same vicinity in Lebanon, a Giv'ati Brigade unit clashed with a terrorist squad about two weeks ago. In that clash, one of the terrorists was killed and two IDF soldiers were slightly grazed. The terrain in that area is mostly intractable, a fact that terrorists take advantage of to try to infiltrate into Israel. An IDF unit that was carrying out an operational activity in the security zone's eastern sector last night spotted several suspicious figures two km south of al-Qantarah. The soldiers fired at the figures. A search conducted at dawn revealed explosives, a mine, and a Katyusha rocket pointed at Israel.

Search for Gunmen Continues

TA1712142190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] Two terrorists belonging to the DFLP [Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine] gang that took part in the clash with Golani troops north of Moshav Zar'it were killed in the security zone in southern Lebanon this morning. Our correspondents Karmela Menashe and Hayim Hecht report that Golani soldiers and SLA [South Lebanese Army] troops continued to search a wide area of the security zone last night. The terrorists were discovered this morning. An SLA force fired at them from close range and killed them. Kalashnikov rifles and a revolver were found near the bodies. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the SLA did not sustain any casualties.

In Eastern Sector

TA1612211690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Excerpt] A combined IDF [Israel Defense Forces] force operated this afternoon against terrorist targets in south Lebanon. The target was hit and destroyed. Our troops sustained no casualties.

Our Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the operation took place in the eastern sector, north of the security sector, in the vicinity of Tuffah. The destroyed target had served as the base for terrorist squads. Our correspondent notes that the number of attempted terrorist attacks from this area has recently increased. [passage omitted]

Mansur Pledges Consolidation of Greater Beirut

NC1512191290 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] Defense Minister Albert Mansur has declared that not one illegal weapon will remain in Greater Beirut. Mansur promised that all loopholes will be closed in three months at the most, and said that security will be consolidated between Nahr al-Kalb and al-Damur, particluarly at ports and on highways. Mansur also said that Army brigades will be merged.

Minister Mansur told the Voice of Lebanon that the consolidation of security takes time and the Army is still deploying. He added that Army officers' promotions will be announced next week and that Army formations will be announced a week later.

Concerning the new government, Minister Mansur said it is natural that all the forces who want to stabilize peace in Lebanon would be included.

Concerning Iqlim al-Tuffah, Minister Mansur said that there are some differences between the rival parties that we are trying to resolve. He added that consultations are under way to deploy the Army there.

Hizballah Claims Ja'ja' Handed Over Homeland

NC1812132890 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Station political commentary: "The Abduction and Handing Over of the Homeland"]

[Excerpt] A few days ago, the forces of Samir Ja'ja' handed over some abducted Lebanese citizens to the Zionist entity's Mosad. These Lebanese citizens had been imprisoned for months, or perhaps even years, in the cellars of the Lebanese Forces Military Council or other prisons run by Samir Ja'ja' and his followers.

Full of evil and venom and having sold himself to the Zionist enemy, Ja'ja' decided to transfer the abducted persons to his masters in Tel Aviv. His perverted conscience would not allow him to return these innocent persons to their families whose hearts are aching to be reunited with their loved ones.

Ja'ja' and his gang committed another crime in the past. They abducted and hid the missing Iranian diplomats. The diplomats disappeared without a trace into Ja'ja' prisons.

Abducting people, detaining them, and handing them over to the enemy have been the standard practice of Lebanese Forces commanders since the birth of this militia, and nothing has changed. Some people want Ja'ja' and his like to be represented in the government. Does it not occur to these people that Ja'ja', a mere local agent of the Israelis, will simply hand over his ministerial portfolio to his masters in Tel Aviv? Ja'ja' and his forces are in the habit of handing things over to the enemy.

Some people, including some members of President Al-Hirawi's entourage and his cronies, believe that the Lebanese Forces have severed their ties with Israel. We advise these people to take another look at the case of the Lebanese who were abducted by the Lebanese Forces and only recently handed over to the enemy. Let such people take a closer look at this grave issue and ask themselves how the Lebanese Forces will act in the future in light of their past practices. The entire country will be in danger of being handed over and sold out if the Lebanese Forces, and Ja'ja' in particular, are entrusted with it. The entire state will be in danger of being shipped off to Tel Aviv. Everyone who is hostile to the Lebanese Forces and Israel will be in grave danger if the Lebanese Forces are allowed to move freely in areas from which they have been barred. Beware allowing the Lebanese Forces and their intelligence organs from moving into areas that are out of bounds to the Zionists and their assistants.

Until the Lebanese Forces disclose the facts surrounding the issue of the abudcted persons whom the Lebanese Forces held in custody and then handed over to the enemy's intelligence, all areas that are free from the Lebanese Forces presence should be protected from and fortified against any sabotage and penetration by these forces. We say this not to initiate sectarian segregation or to obstruct a solution, but because we have a duty to protect our kinfolk and all citizens, without exception. The protection of our kinfolk and of the oppressed is more important than any rhetoric or slogan about harming solutions and settlements that is presented by the Lebanese Forces and those linked to them. We will not trust such people until they free the people they abducted. Those who have been handed over to the enemy's intelligence in a blatant act of injustice and terror should be returned home and freed. [passage omitted]

Iqlim Al-Tuffah Committee Discusses Obstacles

NC1812144490 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] The quadripartite committee formed from the Damascus Agreement on Iqlim al-Tuffah held a meeting at the Syrian observers headquarters in al-Ramlah al-Bayda' [in West Beirut] at noon today. Amal Movement leader Minister Nabih Birri, Hizballah Secretary General Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli, Iranian Ambassador to Damascus Shaykh Mohammad Hasan Akhtari, and Chief of Syrian Military Intelligence in Lebanon Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an attended the meeting. They discussed ways to remove the obstacles to Lebanese Army deployment in Iqlim al-Tuffah villages.

Earlier today Ambassdor Akhtari and Brig. Gen Kan'an visited Army Commander General Lahhud to discuss current developments in Lebanon.

Lahd Says Peace With Israel Task of SLA

NC1712165290 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] Uri Lubrani, the Defense Ministry's coordinator of Lebanese affairs, has urged the Lebanese Government not to focus entirely on Greater Beirut but to pay attention to all areas equally. He hoped that the Lebanese Government would be able to adopt independent decisions. Lubrani said this at a ceremony inaugurating the al-Marj-Bab al-Thaniyah road which leads to al-Khayyam in southern Lebanon. He affirmed that as long as the Lebanese central government is not present here, we will work with Major General Antoine Lahd, commander of the South Lebanese Army [SLA], to provide essential services and establish the necessary projects for the residents of the border villages in southern Lebanon.

Maj. Gen. Lahd said that peace with the State of Israel and coexistence in the region are among the tasks of the SLA. He called on the residents of villages in southern Lebanon to be loyal to the SLA and contribute to security and peace in the area.

SLA Spokesman Welcomes Army Deployment in South

NC1512181590 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] A spokesman for the South Lebanese Army [SLA] today expressed support for Lebanese Army deployment in the south, as this would entail the withdrawal of fundamentalist groups from the area. The SLA radio cited the spokesman as saying that the SLA supports any agreement that would restore peace to the region. The spokesman said that the presence of Hizballah and other organizations in the south is the reason for military operations in that region.

Karami Reportedly Asked To Form New Government

NC1712175290 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Excerpts] According to exclusive information, there is a good possibility that Education Minister 'Umar Karami will be asked to form the new government. Karami met with President Ilyas al-Hirawi at the presidential office this evening. Nothing official has been disclosed about the nature of the meeting, but sources have confirmed that the cabinet reshuffle was the main topic of conversation.

The same sources pointed out that Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss might tender his government's resignation tomorrow morning, and that consultations will begin on Thursday and Friday on the formation of the new government. [passage omitted]

We have learned that the meeting between President al-Hirawi and Minister Karami has just ended. Former Minister Michel al-Murr attended part of the meeting. Minister Karami declined to comment after the meeting. However, he said: I will talk in two days.

Cabinet Meets 15 Dec, Issues Decisions

NC1612093190 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] After the Cabinet meeting yesterday, Information and Justice Minister Edmond Rizq made a statement in which he said:

The Cabinet held a session under the chairmanship of His Excellency President Ilyas al-Hirawi. His Excellency Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss and the ministers attended.

At the outset of the session, his excellency the president said that Greater Beirut has become a tangible fact and has been a successful prelude necessary to ensure Lebanon's unity and sovereignty. He added that this would not have been accomplished following the 13 October unification operation had it not been for two initiatives: First, the Army's removal of the mines from the heart of the capital and second, the removal of the barriers and bunkers, which had been set up over many years, by the (Jenico) foundation of the Rafiq al-Hariri group, which used all its capabilities to do this. [passage omitted]

The president briefed the Cabinet on the Lebanese-Syrian summit which confirmed the atmosphere of understanding and cooperation between the two fraternal countries and Presidents al-Hirawi and al-Asad. [passage omitted]

Minister of Electricity and Water Resources Nabih Birri then reviewed the current conditions in Beirut Port after it was taken over by the legitimate authority. He presented a list of the equipment, machinery, and accessories that have been lost and are needed for the port to operate normally again. This equipment and machinery is valued at between $25 million to $30 million, including the price of 20,000 tons of wheat taken from the silos. [passage omitted]

As a result of six hours of deliberation and discussions, the Cabinet adopted the following decisions regarding the matters on its agenda:

1. To thank the (Jenico) foundation and the Rafiq al-Hariri group for the free services they have provided and are providing to the Lebanese people and the state's institutions. To urge all those who can extend any assistance to do so now as Lebanon is in dire need of reconstruction.

2. While regretting the heavy losses and damage caused to the public utilities and ports, the Cabinet declares its determination to take all measures to recover, in kind or in cash, everything that has been taken from the state, because these things are the sole property of the Lebanese people and a trust for which every official in whatever position is responsible.

3. To charge the labor minister with the task of following up on the wages issue in cooperation with the finance minister and the authorities and parties concerned in order to secure the necessary data that will enable the Cabinet to adopt the appropriate decision.

4. To authorize the ministers of finance, electricity and water resources, and national defense to act jointly to ensure Beirut Port operates normally.

5. To seek the help of the UN Development Program office in assigning international experts to explore for subterranean water in the al-Khardli area.

6. To pay the state's share—that of the public sector—in the increased capital for Lebanon Television.

7. To call on all employees of various categories to immediately begin their work, now that all reasons and excuses for absences have been eliminated, or else be subjected to the full rigor of the law without delay. This is because the employee's primary duty is loyalty, commitment, and responsibility to the state.

8. The Cabinet expresses its firm confidence that the restoration of the normal situation will continue because the Lebanese people, who have endured 16 years of hardship, must now rest.

Hizballah Radio Criticizes Al-Hirawi's Conduct

NC1612094990 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Unattributed political commentary: "Wrong Starts By a New President"]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Though the famous al-Ta'if accord has limited the powers of the president of the republic, the way the president brought in by al-Ta'if conducts his work and that of others does not differ from the methods of his predecessors. If that document curtailed the privileges of the priviliged sect, as it is claimed, its implementation is different.

The president is proceeding as if we were back in the sixties or seventies, and each of the president's entourage is exercising power as if he himself were a president with powers. Roads are open and strewn with flowers only for the person who rides in the presidential automobile or for the first lady. This is as far as personal matters and the exercise of presidential powers are concerned, and in this the president is not different from his living or dead predecessors.

As far as we see and hear, the president, and not the Cabinet as is presumed and stipulated under al-Ta'if accord, is the one who decides on state policy. The president's stand on the South and the resistance is the same as that adopted unilaterally in the name of the state by Amin al-Jumayyil and others. At the same time, we hear statements and views that differ from those of al-Hirawi and his suspicious entourage. The president appoints, or promises to appoint, close friends and favorites to senior positions, and when he finds someone in opposition who stands up to him, he delays the appointments, suspends the promotions, and keeps the positions vacant, as Amin al-Jumayyil did before him when he met with opposition from other government officials.

The president is for all Lebanon and the entire homeland in his press conferences, on television and radio, in newspapers, and before popular delegations, but he is sectarian to the teeth to members of his sect and denomination, behind the scenes, and in performing his duties. He is pliable when the iron is red hot, but not all the time. He is more sectarian than others because it was his sect that led to al-Ta'if, which led him to the presidency. It was not the homeland, the people, or the public that led him there, and that is why he was, is, and will remain a sectarian president in everything and before everyone, except before the propaganda organs and mass media.

The president is exerting pressure and roaring in order to rescue the Lebanese Forces from the trap of giving in to the state and abandoning positions and ports to the Army. This is to facilitate the deployment of the Lebanese Forces in several areas previously controlled by 'Awn and to secure gains, profits, and ministerial and parliamentary positions for the Lebanese Forces and Samir Ja'ja'. The president is giving the Lebanese Forces plenty of room to expand within the temporary presidential headquarters, the Defense Ministry in al-Yarzah, the Interior Ministry, the Public Security Department, and other places.

But on issues besides those of the Lebanese Forces, the president is obstructing the march of the resistance, is warning and threatening those who disagree with him, and is undermining efforts to resolve the issue of the South, Iqlim al-Tuffah, and other issues. He deliberately attempts to weaken the other forces present on the ground while strengthening the Lebanese Forces' positions.

This is how the president began his political approaches and conduct toward the citizens, the political forces on the ground, the homeland, the Constitution, and the new laws. It is the rule that a bad start leads to bad results. The president made bad starts in discharging his duties and handling public and private issues, and undoubtedly this will lead to bad results, sooner or later. So before the mistakes and negative acts reach the point of no return, the president, his entourage, and advisers are required to take heed, reverse the mistakes, and remain within reason and in a state of balance because in Lebanon a small mistake can quickly become a catastrophe and a tragedy. Building a homeland cannot begin with mistakes and injustice, but should begin by putting the right man in the right place, applying the minimum degree of justice, and treating individuals and groups equally. Our talk now is just a start, and it follows things we had noticed in the presidential conduct. There will be more talk when the time comes, for talk is best when it comes at the right time.

Junblatt Discusses Differences With Al-Hirawi

NC1512205990 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] leader Walid Junblatt met with U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker in al-Mukhtarah today. Their three-hour meeting included a luncheon and was attended by the U.S. Embassy's political adviser as well as Durayd Yaghi, PSP deputy leader for foreign affairs.

After the meeting Junblatt said: We remember when Ambassador Crocker came to al-Mukhtarah and rescued me, in a certain sense, from the Israeli occupation in 1982. I returned to Beirut with him then and, with Beirut's citizens, suffered the burden of Israeli occupation. I also remember when, at a certain stage, Ambassador Crocker helped me leave Beirut after Bashir al-Jumayyil's election as president. We told him and his team at that time that we hoped to leave Lebanon if a government under a Phalangist extremist was inevitable. Mr. Crocker was not an ambassador or responsible for U.S. policy then.

I comment on these two important events only because they affected events at that delicate stage. We hope and believe that Ambassador Crocker, and current U.S. policy, can return everyone to Lebanon, consolidate these people's presence in Lebanon, consolidate Lebanese national unity, and especially consolidate the Lebanese Army and keep it free from all suspect trends so that it will be everyone's Army so that it will be able to take control of Juniyah, Jubayl, al-Batrun, and Kasrawan. I hope the Army will also take over the south and liberate it from Israeli occupation.

Asked why he had not attended the cabinet meeting today, Junblatt said: This is not a big issue. The cabinet meeting is a secondary matter, particularly in this disturbing atmosphere when Ilyas al-Hirawi wants to let some riffraff loose on me and make some ridiculous statements. I warned President al-Hirawi at a certain stage during a cabinet meeting. I told him he had accused me of thievery in remarks he made at a news conference, and later made the same accusations against me through remarks by his brother-in-law. I am willing to let the Justice Ministry arbitrate this issue, if there is such a thing as a justice ministry. If I am a thief let them put me on trial, but let them also put others on trial, including his entourage and the people closest to him. These are the details of that cabinet session. What is important is that they should think of the supreme national interest.

Asked if he will attend future cabinet meetings, Junblatt responded: Everything will be decided in its time.

Told that he is apparently optimistic about the U.S. role in resolving the Lebanese crisis, he interrupted: I did not say I was optimistic. I said we are putting all the facts before Ambassador Crocker and will extend all facilities and every necessary assistance to him for the sake of Lebanon's unity, particularly for the sake of building an army free from the influence of the Paris Gang. We want a national army under the command of Emile Lahhud—an army for all the Lebanese from al-Qubayyat to Bint Jubayl. This is our hope because we and the Army lived through a very cruel and bitter experience in 1982. I believe that neither of us won. If God wills, we will be able to feel sufficiently reassured to turn over our weapons to the Lebanese army's officers and troops. I hope—and this is the most important thing—we will succeed in incorporating our military force into the Army.

Asked to comment on his meeting with Syrian President al-Asad and the ensuing Lebanese-Syrian summit, Junblatt said: It has been reported that I held a news conference about the corruption issue after my meeting with President al-Asad. He and I discussed issues that are in my view much more important than corruption in Lebanon. We did not discuss at all what is happening in Lebanon, except in broad outline. My campaign against corruption, however, has not stopped. As to President al-Asad, we perceived his concern for Lebanese unity, the unity of its institutions, and an Army that provides guarantees for all parties. We were also reassured of Syria's constant support for the patriotic forces that want to safeguard Lebanese unity. Let us not link these two issues as some newspapers, such as AL-SAFIR and AL-NAHAR, try to do through their headlines. Regrettably we are discovering that these papers—I do not want to say they are biased—exercise a tasteless and ridiculous self-censorship. I hope that the press will serve all parties. We wish to remind Ghassan Tuwayni and his friends that in the good old days, an article by Ghassan used to build or topple governments. We want to return to the golden age of free journalism. Only in this way will Lebanon live.

Junblatt Calls for 'New Chapter' With Adversaries

NC1612192490 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] Minister Walid Junblatt announced today that he extends a hand to the other party—specifically to the men, non-commissioned officers, and officers against whom we fought—to open a new chapter and together build the peace sought by the brave heroes and the poor.

In return, Junblatt called for unity in the face of what he termed the excesses aimed at controlling the Army and handing it anew to the Phalangists, the Lebanese Forces, and the intelligence circles in the Parisian silky [word indistinct].

Addressing a rally in the town of 'Aytat, he said the peace of the brave would be made by bypassing the flaws of 13 October [operation in which 'Awn was ousted] and by embracing all the officers, non-commissioned officers, and men who were forced to side with Michel 'Awn.

Sa'adah Discusses Government Reshuffle, Al-Matn

NC171217[illegible]90 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Minister George Sa'adah has predicted an imminent government reshuffle and the initiation of consultations by the president of the republic to form an expanded, comprehensive, and balanced national accord government, in which all ideologies will be represented. Such a government will handle state affairs in all areas and will enhance the citizen's confidence in the approved peace and reconciliation measures, which will guarantee its success and viability.

Commenting on the security situation in the two al-Matn regions at the Phalangist Party's expanded meeting at its headquarters at noon today, he said: From the beginning, we tried to stop the transgressions against the Phalangist Party posts and members. We called for creating a new climate and closing the black chapter of the past. However, all these initiatives failed to bring about the required positive effect, and explosions and acts of assassination increased. We will not allow the continuation of this situation and will employ all means to halt such acts.

The Phalangist Party leader expressed readiness to take all measures to steady the situation, saying: We prefer to end this situation politically and urge the military, judicial, and security authorities to adopt the necessary measures toward this end. [passage omitted]

Phalangist Party Proposes 'Charter of Honor'

NC1812133690 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Excerpts] An extraordinary session of the Phalangist Party's Political Bureau was held today under party leader Dr. George Sa'adah. The session ended a short while ago. On the agenda of the meeting was the government situation as well as the country's severe social and economic problems.

As the political bureau was discussing these issues in order to prepare a detailed report on them, it learned of the death of brother Sami Abu-Jawdah, chief of the Phalangist department in al-Zalqah. Abu-Jawdah was killed by a pistol equipped with a silencer while at his shop in al-Zalqah. The incident prompted the political bureau to turn its attention to the security situation in upper and lower al-Matn.

The news shocked the meeting as it brought back the horror of the intimidation and killing of innocent citizens in broad daylight as they were carrying out their duties. The Phalangist Party considers the situation in al-Matn as intolerable and believes that the continuation of daily security violations and acts of murder, bombings, and sabotage are harming the government's credibility, undermining the achievements of the Greater Beirut Plan, and slowing the peace march. [passage omitted]

The Phalangist Party has drawn up a basic plan of action to treat this problem not only as a party problem, but as a national issue that reflects on the government's performance.

The Phalangist Party calls for a charter of honor among the parties, a charter based on respect for freedoms and the law, so that responsible freedoms become the right of all and the law's supremacy is upheld by all.

We have learned that the Phalangist Party's Political Bureau in its meeting today appointed a special committee under party deputy leader Lawyer Munir al-Haj to conduct the necessary consultations with official and national figures, to discuss the situation with them, and to ensure that prompt and appropriate action is taken.

Offices Reportedly Attacked

NC1612080990 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] The Phalangist Party has confirmed that six of its members were injured the day before yesterday when three party offices in the al-Matn region came under rocket attack. The Lebanese Defense Ministry has denied any knowledge of the incidents.

Fadlallah Returns From Two Weeks in Tehran

NC1612104090 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah returned to Beirut from Tehran after an approximately two-week visit to Iran. While there he met with Iranian revolutionary guide Ayatollah Khamene'i, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, and Majles Speaker Mehdi Karrubi.

Lebanon's Al-Hirawi, Al-Asad Hold Talks

JN1312182690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] At 1700 today, President al-Asad received President Ilyas al-Hirawi of the Republic of Lebanon.

Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, and General Hikmat al-Shihabi, chief of the General Staff, joined the meeting later.

The meeting centered on the situation in Lebanon and the steps to implement the Lebanese national accord document.

Statement Issued

NC1412093190 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Statement issued by the Presidential Information Office on 14 December]

[Text] A summit meeting between His Excellency President Ilyas al-Hirawi and His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad was held in Damascus yesterday. The two presidents held an in-depth discussion of urgent Lebanese topics, especially those related to consolidating Greater Beirut politically after the state has imposed its authority there effectively.

The two presidents emphasized the need to move quickly to take the steps required in the political and administrative fields, in accordance with the national accord document.

After a two-hour private meeting, the two presidents were joined by Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, and Syrian Chief of Staff General Hikmat al-Shihabi.

President al-Hirawi returned to Beirut last night.

Jordanian Prime Minister Arrives, Meets Al-Asad

JN1712163590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Jordanian Prime Miniser Mudar Badran at 1330 [1130 GMT] today. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi.

Mudar Badran arrived in Damascus this afternoon. He was received on arrival by Prime Minster Mahumud al-Zu'bi and Foreign Minsiter Faruq al-Shar'. He was also welcomed at the airport by Mahmud Qaddur, deputy prime minister for services affairs; Ahmad Diyab, minister of local administration; Dr. Muhammad Harbah, minister of interior; Muhammad Salman, minister of information; Wahib Fadil; minister of state for presidential affairs; and Nayif al-Hadid; Jordan's ambassador in Damascus.

In a statement to SANA, Mudar Badran said he was pleased to visit Syria. He said: I am honored to meet with President Hafiz al-Asad and convey to his excellency an oral message from his brother His Majesty King Husayn on developments in the Arab region that are related to the future and interests of the Arab nation. He added that he was pleased to meet with Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and senior officials in Syria, and pointed to the importance of meetings and consultations between the Arab states, which help bring their viewpoints closer on various issues and topics.

Concludes Visit, Departs

JN1712190990 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Jordanian Prime Minister Mudar Badran left Damascus this evening following a short visit to Syria, during which he met with President Hafiz al-Asad. [passage omitted]

Agreement on Higher Education Signed With Libya

JN1612100390 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1620 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Damascus, 15 Dec (SANA)—Dr. Ibrahim Misbah Bukhzam, secretary of the General People's Committee for Higher Education in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, left Damascus for home today after a visit to Syria which lasted several days.

The Libyan official signed an agreement in Damascus this morning with Dr. Kamal Sharaf, Syrian minister of higher education, on joint cooperation in the field of higher education. [passage omitted]

'No Peace' in Region Without Israeli 'Withdrawal'

JN1412111390 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0820 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] Damascus, 14 Dec (SANA)—The newspaper AL-BA'TH has affirmed that Israel's rejection of the international will has become a set policy adopted by a big power that is supposed to be responsible for and supportive of peace.

In a commentary today, the paper says that we in the Arab homeland ask why Israel has become closer to the United States than any state in the union. We also ask why Israel is viewed by the Americans as infallible, while its practices constitute the severest violation of international law, human rights, and the Geneva Conventions guaranteeing these rights.

Referring to what Shamir declared a month ago when he said that Israel extends from the sea to the river, the paper says: We do not believe that what Shamir declared was not heard by those who claim to be concerned about peace, security, and the Fourth Geneva Convention. We are sure that some Western states have begun to realize this fact and do not accept that Israel threaten peace in the Mediterranean basin. However, we have no doubt about these states' ability to isolate Israel as long as the United States refuses to do so.

The paper says that those concerned about peace should have asked the U.S. Administration whether it is serious about peace and about promoting it, and they should demand a practical measure from Washington to confirm and clarify what it claims.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: The entire world is certain that there will be no peace in the Middle East without Israel's withdrawal and recognition of the Palestinian Arab people's legitimate rights. Those talking about peace should make Israel respect international law and respond to the fundamentals of peace. Otherwise, what has been accomplished by international changes will not continue.

EC Declaration on Palestinians Welcomed

JN1612204690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Esteemed listeners: Watching developments in the occupied Arab land, the international community has come to realize that the situation there has gone beyond endurance and that it will no longer be possible to allow this Zionist expansionism to continue; its continuation would heighten risks to regional security and peace and push the situation to the verge of explosion. As the attention of world opinion is focused on the situation in the occupied Arab land, Israel persists in its belligerent, terrorist, and racist policies, impervious to all calls that it cease its fascist and brutal measures. Indeed, Israel is brushing aside forceful demands by the entire international community that it rein in its arrogance and racist hostility to everything Arab and to Arab existence and destiny.

By watching and vigorously condemning enemy practices, the international community is thus expressing a yearning for peace, stability, and security in the region—objectives that will prove elusive without exposing the Zionist enemy's expansionist designs and plots, forcing it to abandon these criminal designs, and supporting our people in the occupied land as they fight Zionist terror and its savage massacres to pursue their right to life and their aspiration to unshackle themselves from the odious Israeli occupation.

Without a doubt, the widespread global support enjoyed by our people under occupation necessarily calls for translating it into effective deterrence against the Zionist enemy. The international community is dutybound to take such measures and to create the circumstances for our people to fully regain their rights. It was from this perspective that the EC declaration on the Middle East was issued, and that the true nature of the international isolation of the Zionist entity on account of its terrorism and aggression must be understood in this context.

The EC summit expressed concern over the collective punishment practiced by Israel, and reiterated its commitment to a just, permanent solution in the Middle East and its support for a UN-sponsored international conference. Further, it called on Israel to abide by UN Security Council Resolutions 672 and 673 passed in October 1990 following the al-Haram al-Sharif massacre, which called for the dispatch of two fact-finding missions to the occupied territory, which Israel rejected. The EC's declaration also supported the Security Council's efforts to protect the Palestinian population and propel the peace process forward.

As we register our satisfaction over the EC declaration, we ask how much longer Israel will spurn such an objective stance and continue to obstruct efforts to promote peace and security in the region. The world now understands that Israel is the primary source of regional tension, and has expressed this understanding through various channels. If the Gulf crisis has helped divert the attention of the international community from the Israeli aggressive policy, and dampened the rising international interest in curbing this policy, Israel cannot continue its terrorist practices and aggressive policies without expecting a deterrent reaction by the international community that puts a limit to all these practices and this policy and forces Israel to comply with the international desire that it end this arrogance.

The atmosphere made possible by international detente makes it incumbent on all parties to abide by international legitimacy. It is not acceptable for Israel to expect to be the exception to this rule, when it is all too aware that there is a worldwide trend, even in the West—Israel's abiding ally—to impose the resolutions and will of international legitimacy.

Afghanistan

Prime Minister Meets With 'Arafat Envoy 12 Dec

LD1412072990 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0501 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] Kabul, Dec 13, BAKHTAR—Fazl Haq Khaliqyar, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA] received here on December 12, 1990 Abu-Khalid [Nayif Hawatimah], special envoy of Yasir 'Arafat, president of the Palestine state, reports Press Office of the Prime Ministry.

Abu-Khalid handed over the view of al-Aqsa Mosque which is of great importance as first qiblah of the Muslims of the world to the Afghan Prime Minister gifted by His Excellency Yasir 'Arafat, president of Palestine state.

Abu-Khalid expressed appreciation about the measures and effort of the government headed by Khaliqyar for paving the ground for understanding and talks among Afghans and reiterated it as a government of national reconciliation and the transitional one towards peace. He lauded the principled position of the government and people of Afghanistan towards the Palestinians and their righteous cause.

Reciprocally, the Afghan prime minister expressed the support of the people and the government of the RA for the righteous cause of Palestinian and informed Abu-Khalid about the current developments for ensuring peace in the country.

Prime Minister on UN Aid Official's Departure

LD1412080890 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0509 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] Kabul, Dec 13, BAKHTAR—Fazl Haq Khaliqyar, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan today in the Prime Ministry palace had a farewell meeting with Schulenberg, head of the office of the UN Salam operation in Afghanistan, reports the press department of the Prime Ministry to BAKHTAR. In this meeting Schulenberg talked in brief on the humanitarian and economic cooperation of the said UN institution with the people of Afghanistan, and his mission.

Reciprocally, Khaliqyar while wishing further successes in his future tasks, requested the UN Salam program for seeking better and more physical ways for the acceleration and facilitating its aids to the people of Afghanistan.

Khaliqyar's Message to Perez de Cuellar on Mines

LD1412190990 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] The prime minister's press office reports that a message has been sent to His Excellency Javier Perez de Cuellar, the UN secretary general, by Fazl Haq Khaliqyar, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA] and chairman of the National Commission for Clearing Mines and Unexploded Ordance from the Lands of the RA.

In the message the attention of the UN secretary general has been drawn to the specification of the national program and the methods of activities of the national commission, the central and provincial work committees, and measures taken by the state of the RA in order to clear the lands of the RA from mines and unexploded material. It has been added that the national commission will try to use all the means in the country in order to fulfill this great national duty.

The esteemed prime minister has mentioned in his message that we will be happy if the present program, which is being named willingly as the national program, should be transformed into a joint program of all Afghani forces, including the sides involved in war.

Naturally the resolving of such a great problem as clearing mines requires extensive financial and technical assistance of all the countries, humanitarian societies, and international organizations.

Esteemed Khaliqyar added in his letter to the UN secretary general that, having full confidence in the fact that his excellency will be aware of the concern of the people and government of Afghanistan in this regard: I appeal to you and request that you study the possibility of setting up a special cooperation program in this sphere within the framework of the UN humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan under the auspices of your excellency. And I will be very happy if you could send a group of experts to the RA to study the problem, and assess the sphere of providing assistance to the RA.

Mine Clearing Commission Opens Funding Accounts

LD1412073390 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0501 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] Kabul, Dec 13, BAKHTAR—The national commission for clearing areas earlier mined in the Republic of Afghanistan [RA] here by notifies all compatiots, political parties, social organizations, charity, institutions, companies and private sector institutions that accounts Nos 31440/4 and 48070/3 are opened for Afghan and foreign currencies in the Bank-e-Millies Afghan (Afghan National Bank) recently and accept cash assistance from our compatriots, says the announcement of the National Commission on Clearing Mines and Unexploded Ordnance, released today.

The deposits to the said accounts will be used for sweeping mines planted in different parts of the country, it adds.

Najibullah Meets Ghowr Citizens, Clergy

LD1612055790 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0501 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] Kabul, Dec. 15, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA] today in the

Presidential Palace had a meeting with ulema, clergies, senators and opposition commands joined the policy of national reconciliation.

President Najibullah in the meeting talked on the politico-military situation, materialization of national reconciliation policy and the peaceful measures of the RA's government aimed at settlement of the Afghanistan issue through peaceful means and negotiations.

He while extolling the role of the Ghowr inhabitants in termination of war in the country, urged them to unitedly take an active part in the construction of Afghanistan and ensurance of peace and prosperity of people in the country.

Later on Fazl Ahmad, governor [title as received] of Ghowr, and a number of the clergies on behalf of others while speaking on the active participation of the Ghowr inhabitants towards the implementation of the policy of national reconciliation, voiced their all out support to the RA's national programme for sweeping the lands from mines and unexploded ordnance.

Meets With Local Leaders

LD1712064990 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0433 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] Kabul, Dec. 16, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA] received today for meeting elders, tribal chieftains commandants of tribal contingents and representatives of the provinces of Sar-e Pol and Jowzjan at the presidential headquarters.

President Najibullah spoke about the state current policy, process of the implementation of national reconciliation policy, its effects on national and international levels and constructive steps taken by the RA state for cessation of fratricidal war and requested their active part in putting into practice the RA peaceful proposals.

Furthermore, President Najibullah shed light on the political military situation of the country and process of political solution of the Afghan issue on national and international levels.

Then Toorabaz Khan from Jowzjan Province and Haji Musa from Sar-e Pol on behalf of others spoke on the active participation of the people of their provinces in the implementation of national reconciliation policy and other constructive proposals of the RA state for ending of war in the country and presented proposals on their local problems.

At the end President Najibulah issued instructions to concerned authorities for solving their problems.

Commission Urges More Facilities for Refugees

LD1412080590 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0501 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] Kabul, Dec 13, BAKHTAR—Session of the National Mediatory Commission of Afghanistan presided over by Kamal-uddin Eshaqzai, chairman of the commission, was held in Kabul today and assessed issues included in the agenda.

BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] reported that, likewise, the session debated on issues related to refugees problems and concerned authorities were requested to provide more facilities and pay keen attention to them. The session discussed a number of domestic problems of the commission and approved a resolution in this regard.

Bangladesh

Envoy to Japan Recalled; Envoy to France Quits

BK1712134690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1114 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 17 (AFP)—The Bangladeshi ambassador to Japan, Hedayetul Huq, has been recalled and the ambassador to France, Tozammel Huq, has resigned, a foreign office source said here Monday.

"A message was sent to Mr. Hedayetul Huq today (Monday), and Mr. Tozammel Huq's resignation has been accepted," the source said.

The ambassador to France, an appointee of ousted President Hussain Mohammad Ershad, had been sent on a two-year term in 1987 which was renewed last year for a similar period, he added.

It was not immediately known who would replace the two diplomats, but the moves came as the interim government here reviewed "controversial" envoys, a euphemism for those considered close to Mr. Ershad.

The ambassador to Tokyo, who is unrelated to Mr. Tozammel Huq, is a career diplomat but considered a "close associate" of Mr. Ershad.

Foreign office officials had demanded that acting President Shahabuddin Ahmed's government streamline the service and recall all officials appointed "irregularly."

The first ambassador to be recalled after Mr. Ershad's fall was his brother-in-law A.H.G. Mohiuddin, Bangladesh's permanent representative to the United Nations, and sources said several junior diplomats had also been ordered home.

Panel Formed To Probe Charges Against Ershad

BK1712155590 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] The government has decided to constitute a three-member committee headed by a judge of the Supreme Court to investigate allegations of the misuse of power and corruption by former President Ershad, his cabinet ministers, and officers and employees of government and sector corporations.

Committee To List Assets

BK1812093790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] In Bangladesh, the three-member probe body appointed by the interim government to inquire into the charges of misuse of power and corruption against the former president, General Ershad, his ministers, and some other officers would be headed by a supreme court judge, Mr. Justice E.M. Ansaruddin. Other members of the committee are Mr. Abdul Hannan, and Mr. Mahbubul Haq.

Our Dhaka correspondent says the probe body was formed amidst mounting pressure from political parties, students, and professional groups.

Meanwhile, the interim government has constituted another eight-member committee to list the personal assets of General Ershad.

Portfolios of New Advisers

BK1712131190 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English 1230 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] The acting president, Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, has allocated the portfolios of his four newly-appointed advisers. The advisers and their portfolios are:

Planning, irrigation, flood control and water resources—Mr. Rehman Sobhan;

Industries, jute and textiles—Mr. A.K. M. Musa;

Energy and mineral resources and works—Professor Wahiduddin Ahmed;

Cultural affairs, social welfare, women affairs and youth and sports—Mr. Alamgir M.A. Kabir;

Mr. A.B.M.G. Kibria will look after posts and telecommunications besides the Ministry of Communications.

Presidential Adviser, Other Officials Appointed

BK1712160590 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] President of the Dhaka University Teachers Association, Professor Yeazuddin Ahmed, has been appointed a member of the acting president's advisory council. Meanwhile, additional secretary in charge of cultural ministry, Dr. Enamul Haq, has been reverted to his original post of director general of National Museum.

The contract for appointing A.K. Mosharraf Hossain as secretary for industries, now an OSP [expansion unknown] in the Ministry of Establishment, has been cancelled. Professor Syed Ali Ahsan has resigned from the post of chairman of the University Grant Commission. The acting president, Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, has accepted the resignation.

Professor M. Shamsul Haq has been appointed to officiate as the chairman of the University Grant Commission until further orders. Professor Wakil Ahmed has been appointed the pro vice chancellor of Dhaka University.

Leaders Speak on Economy, Democracy Transition

BK1712161990 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] BNP [Bangladesh Nationalist Party] chief and leader of Seven-Party Alliance, Begum Khaleda Zia, has called for people's cooperation for holding free and fair parliamentary polls in the country. She was addressing a workers gathering at Demra today. She urged all to resist any evil design which may hinder the process of transition to democracy. Begum Khaleda Zia also met the families of those who were killed or injured during the mass upsurge at Matrai, Arambagh, Post Gola, Dolaipar and Uttar Jatrabari.

The Awami League chief and Eight-party Alliance leader, Sheikh Hasina, has said open debate will be arranged, if necessary, to formulate future national policy on economy and planning. She was exchanging views with members of the delegation of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry at Bangabandhu Bhavan in Dhaka today. Sheikh Hasina said like other countries of the world, there are nationalized industries in our country. But at the same time, we are interested in boosting the private sector. She said her party has no intention of nationalizing again industries already given to the private sector.

Students of Rival Election Parties Clash

BK1812010490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1739 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 17 (AFP)—At least 12 people were injured, two seriously, when students belonging to Bangladesh's two major political groups clashed Monday days after the date for the March 2 elections were announced, sources said.

Students belonging to the Bangladesh Chatra League (BCL) and Jatiyatabadi Chatral Dal (JCD) clashed over victory celebration programs at Manikganj District's Daulatpur Degree College about 20 miles (32 kilometers) south of Dhaka, the sources said.

BCL is the student wing of Sheikh Hasina Wajed's Awami League (AL) and JCD belongs to Begum Khaleda Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).

Bangladesh's interim government of Acting President Shahabuddin Ahmed announced the March 2 election date Friday, 11 days after the ouster of former president Hussain Mohammad Ershad in a popular uprising.

Local authorities closed the college for four days and deployed a strong contingent of police, they said, adding meetings of more than four people on the campus were also banned until further notice.

The AL and BNP are the main contestants for the March elections, and the clash was the first reported since student groups united under a common banner in the victorious oust-Ershad campaign.

India

West Blamed for Failure of Brussels Trade Talks

BK1812092190 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 10 Dec 90 p 11

[Editorial: "Failure at Brussels]

[Text] Not many had hoped that the five-day Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations in Bruseels would be a success. What has come as a surprise, however, is the callousness displayed by the rich nations completely ignoring the larger interests of the two-thirds of the poor of the world. The wreckers were the prosperous trading groups—the US and its ally 14-nation Cairns group on the one hand, and the 12-nation European Community [EC] on the other. The reasons for their inflexible position are not far to seek. The US with a massive domestic fiscal deficit and a widening trade gap is yet to accept that it is no longer in a position to dictate its terms to other developed countries in a manner it was used in the past. The world trade fulcrum is no more in the US. It has shifted to Europe and Japan. Added to this is the newfound strength of European Community with a market of 320 million people. The Brussels round shows EC has hoisted the "Fortress 1992" flag.

On its part, the U.S. would have taken note of the changed scenario but the developing countries in general and India, in particular, would do well to take these early signals seriously. They should not fall between the two powerful trading blocks on an issue—farm subsidy—which is vital to them as well. The stakes are too high—the total trade in farm products being 1,500 billion dollars a year. The farm subsidy dispute has in fact sidelined other vital areas for a negotiated settlement crucial for the developing countries. Regrettably, developing countries did not act as one group, notwithstanding the fact that their interests are common. To an extent India cannot absolve itself of blame for its controversial decision of February 1989 to "climb down" in Geneva to discuss the services sector in the Uruguay Round. No doubt India made an attempt to regain the leadership by regrouping developing countries in March last. A conference of foreign secretaries of 17 countries representing Asia, Africa, Latin America, Caribbean islands representing 40 countries was convened in New Delhi in March but it was too late. The result is there for all to see: in Brussels, India and other developing countries could hardly challenge the developed countries. To an extent, it could also be due to the declining influence of the non-aligned movement. There has thus been no agreement on services sector or patent laws, the most crucial for India.

India had gone to Brussels to continue to press for the elimination of MFA [Multi-Fiber Agreement] after the present one expires in 1991. It has been advocating complete liberalisation of trade in textiles in about six years after 1991, while developed countries want to enjoy the present advantages for another 10 to 15 years. India, along with other developing countries, has also been seeking retention of present arrangement to impose quantitative restrictions on imports to cope with the balance of payments problems. Other equally important issues are those related to patents, particularly to exclude food, chemicals and drug products. India has also been arguing for an agreement providing for export of labour intensive services in the interest of developing countries. In the absence of an agreement on agricultural subsidy, these vital issues concerning the poorer countries have fallen by the way side at Brussels. India and other developing countries will have to wait for the resumption of the trade talks expected to be held in Geneva some time next month. They have a hard battle ahead to fight—and that too from a position of weakness.

PRC Delegation Meets Agriculture Minister

BK1512140890 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] The deputy prime minister and agriculture minister, Mr. Devi Lal, has said that the government gives priority to the transfer of agricultural research findings at the grass roots level in villages. Mr. Devi Lal made these observations when a high-level Chinese delegation, led by Mr. (Qi Shixie), called on him in New Delhi today. The deputy prime minister and the visiting Chinese leaders felt that there was need for further application of technology for village development in both the countries. They were also of the view that farmers should be trained in the adoption of new techniques. The visiting Chinese delegation is now on a two-week tour to study the rural development program in the country.

The delegation also called on the deputy chairman of the Planning Commission, Mr. Mohan Dharia. Mr. Dharia apprised the delegation of the working of the Planning Commission and the process of formulating of five-year plans, with special reference to decentralization up to the gram panchayat [village council] level.

Sri Lankan Tamil Arrested With Ammunition

BK1612042690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1651 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 15 (AFP)—A Sri Lankan Tamil who arrived from Paris was Saturday arrested in Bombay Airport with 15,500 cartridges concealed in one of his bags, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported.

Elango Nataraja, 22, was also found carrying two signalling devices and pamphlets of a group called "war survival" which he said he founded in Paris to seek support for the Tamil separatist campaign in Sri Lanka.

PTI described him as a suspected "terrorist" of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), Sri Lanka's most powerful Tamil militant group which is now fighting government troops in the island's northeast.

Customs officials at Bombay detained the Sri Lankan after discovering his passport was forged. No further details were available.

Indian police have arrested 167 Sri Lankan Tamils, mostly LTTE cadres, in the southern state of Tamil Nadu in a crackdown which began Friday. Tamil Nadu is separated from Sri Lanka by a narrow strip of sea.

Commentary Welcomes Changes in Bangladesh

BK1712113390 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Samad Mukherjee commentary]

[Text] The decision of the interim government headed by the acting president, Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed, to hold parliamentary elections on 2 March next year has set Bangladesh on the road to democracy. While the Election Commission is busy updating the electoral rolls, opposition parties have urged the government to ensure that the elections are free and fair. It may be recalled that Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed assumed power with the primary objective of holding parliamentary elections following the stepping down of President Ershad. It appears as though the widely read book of John Reed—Ten Days That Shook The World—has repeated itself again in Bangladesh, but on a limited scale.

Bangladesh as a nation has undergone another metamorphosis from despicable dictatorship to much wanted democracy in a span of only 10 days. Some hail it as the nation's second liberation, this time from the clutches of autocracy, reminiscent of the victory over Pakistani occupation forces in December 1971. The struggle for democracy started when Lieutenant General Hussain Mohammad Ershad seized power dislodging the elected goverment of Abdus Sattar in March 1982 ostensibly to arrest the then deterioration of law and order. But ironically enough, General Ershad went out after having failed to restore law and order in the face of fierce popular unrest to oust him. The Bangladesh human rights organizations have alleged that during the Ershad regime 300 people were killed, 12,000 injured and over 11,000 imprisoned without trial. The people smarting under simmering discontent right from the beginning started objecting to the usurpation of power by military junta. Since the killing of the nation's founding father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in a bloody coup on 15 August 1975, the country went through traumatic experience of rule from the cantonment in one form or the other. Since the Awami League chief and leader of the eight-party alliance, Shekih Hasina, one of the surviving daughters of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. [sentence as heard] Popular protests against General Ershad finally swelled into a mass movement from the last week of November. Precisely, the imposition of state of emergency on 27 November by General Ershad opened the floodgates of popular resentment. It was initiated by the valiant All Party Students Unity of the Dhaka University, not withstanding the armed onslaught of a gang aided and abetted by the government. The temptation of bribe, offer of better position abroad, and other facilities could not wane away the student activists. They stood like rock and worked as a vanguard of the political parties.

It is very difficult to pinpoint what led to the collapse of the apparently impregnable autocratic regime of General Hussain Mohammad Ershad. He ruled the country like a despot with unlimited power and accountable to none for the long eight and half years. He created a party without any ideology which centered around his office. He doled out largess and benefits. As happens in the case of other despots, General Ershad suffered from inflated ego. He gradually lost touch with the masses being surrounded by sycophants like King (Panute's) noblemen. Like other autocrats, General Ershad got himself entangled by his own doings and ultimately succumbed to the pressure of a mass upsurge.

Political analysts are coming out with multifarious causes for the fall of General Ershad and his regime. Some say it is the students unity. Others point out to the never-ending initiative of the left leaning five parties group for staging united fight of all the political parties. It is, however, widely held that the last straw on the camel's back was provided by the refusal of the donor countries to acquiesce to the measures adopted by General Ershad to sniff out the movement demanding restoration of democracy in the country. The situation became hopeless when the United Nations agencies and different aid units working in Bangladesh decided to suspend their operations following widespread disturbances in Dhaka and elsewhere in the country. With the latest movement against General Ershad, which started from 10 October this year, culminating in his resignation on 6 December, the history of Bangladesh turned a full circle. And, it is again the month of December making it a month of victories from 16 December 1971 to 6 December 1990. Democracy has got another opportunity in Bangladesh.

Prime Minister Speaks on Punjab, Other Issues

*BK1412163590 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 14 Dec 90*

[Excerpt] The prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, has said that the unimplemented clauses of the Rajiv-Longowal accord on Punjab should be implemented at the earliest. He was talking to newsmen at the Chandigarh airport this evening on arrival from Lucknow. Mr. Chandra Shekhar said the government is willing to talk to anybody to solve the Punjab tangle. He denied that the government has made any change in its stand on the Punjab issue. He described the threats to the press, All India Radio, and Doordarshan [television] as most unfortunate. The prime minister categorically stated that the government will not bow to anybody's dictates and such apprehensions will be dispelled soon.

This is Mr. Chandra Shekhar's first visit to Chandigarh after taking over as prime minister.

Later, addressing a large gathering at the residence of the union minister for civil aviation, Mr. Harmohan Dhawan, the prime minister said that Punjab has always been a symbol of courage and strength. He said feelings of some people in the region might have been hurt to some actions. All out endeavor will be made to assuage such feelings.

The prime minister also addressed a meeting of senior civil and police officials of Punjab and the union territory of Chandigarh. The prime minister has since left for New Delhi.

Earlier, addressing a press conference in Lucknow, he reiterated the need for a negotiated settlement of the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid [temple-mosque] issue. Mr. Chandra Shekhar said that the government is considering a legislation to restore the status of religious places to the time of independence. He said the communal violence in the country is the handiwork of antisocial elements. He said the Uttar Pradesh chief minister, Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadav, has handled the situation firmly. There is no question of change of leadership in Uttar Pradesh. [passage omitted]

Shekhar on Bofors Case, Punjab Violence

*BK1512161490 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 15 Dec 90*

[Text] The prime minister has said that the investigations into the Bofors gun deal will neither be curbed nor concealed from the people. In an interview to the New York-based INDIA ABROAD NEWS SERVICE, Mr. Chandra Shekhar said he has been told that the Bofors documents made available to India do not reveal much. He also dismissed the allegations that the CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] director was changed with a motive to derail the case. He said though the former prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, had promised to reveal the names of the alleged kickback recipients in the deal, he failed to do so in 11 months.

Referring to the charges that the Congress-I is influencing the government in the Bofors investigations, the prime minister said the party had never discussed the matter with him. He, however, added that no nation can go on harping on the theme of corruption for all times to come.

On Punjab, the prime minister said the government would like to keep the promise to have elections in the state before the president's rule expires in May next year.

On the economic situation, the prime minister admitted that it is very tight and said that he is not against approaching the International Monetary Fund for a standby credit. Mr. Chandra Shekhar said he had not opposed foreign investment, but said this should only be in critical areas.

Asked about Indo-U.S. relations, Mr. Chandra Shekhar said the recent indications are that Washington's approach toward New Delhi is quite friendly. He appealed to the nonresident Indians to deposit their money in India and promised incentives and security for their accounts.

Shekhar on Provincial Unrest, Foreign Aid

*BK1612130090 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 16 Dec 90*

[Text] The prime minister has made it clear that the government will be firm in dealing with violence and extremist activities. Mr. Chandra Shekhar was speaking at a civil reception organized by the Campaign for People's Rights in New Delhi today. He said that the problems of Punjab, Kashmir, and Assam can only be solved through negotiations and not through the barrel of the gun. The prime minister reiterated that the government is ready to talk to anybody who has faith in the Constitution of the country.

He said the country is facing a serious economic crisis. It needs foreign support to tide over the crisis, but the government will not accept any financial aid from any country at the cost of its freedom and honor.

Warns of Using Force To Quell Riots

*BK1812045090 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 18 Dec 90*

[Text] The prime minister has warned that the government will use force to halt the communal riots in the country. In an interview to a foreign news agency, Mr. Chandra Shekhar said that the government, however, wants to deal with the situation with restraint and patience. He said the center has already started a process for a dialogue with different communities. He made it clear that if the dialogue fails the government will not hesitate to use force to bring normalcy to the country.

Referring to Punjab, the prime minister reiterated that the center is ready to discuss the issue with any citizen within the framework of the Constitution. Mr. Chandra Shekhar ruled out any plebiscite in Kashmir.

On foreign investment, the prime minister said the country should choose carefully what types of foreign products and technology are needed. He pointed out that India cannot imitate the Western world in view of its limited resources.

On foreign policy, Mr. Chandra Shekhar said that improving relations with Pakistan is more important. He disclosed that he and the Pakistan prime minister have set up a hot line and have already used it twice.

Goods Taxes Raised To Mobilize Resources

BK1712162790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] The government has announced several measures to mobilize additional resources. The proposals are estimated to result in a revenue gain of about 1,340 crore rupees in a full year. As per the new measures introduced goods attracting auxiliary duty at 30 to 45 percent has been raised to 50 percent with some exceptions. An official press release issued in New Delhi says goods chargeable to auxiliary duty at five percent hitherto will in general attract a duty of 25 percent. Products at present exempted from auxiliary duty will, however, with few exceptions continue to be exempted. The auxiliary duty on crude oil remains unchanged. These changes came into effect from last Saturday [15 December].

Soda would now become chargeable to basic duty at the rate of 50 paise as compared with 26 paise at present. Similarly, soft drinks other than soda will now attract a basic duty at the rate of 75 paise as compared with 53 paise so far. The announcement says the duty on bottles of higher capacity has also been suitably adjusted.

Secretaries, Police Officials Reshuffled

BK1712164290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] There has been a reshuffle of secretaries at the center. Mr. Suresh Mathur, presently secretary in the Minister of Information and Broadcasting [I and B] has been shifted to the Department of Industrial Development in place of Mr. A.N. Verma who has been moved to the Planning Commission as its member secretary.

Mr. Mahesh Prasad, secretary of Environment and Forests, will be the new I and B secretary.

Mr. R. Raja Mani, director general of the Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology [CAPART] will take over as secretary of Environment and Forests.

Mr. R.K. Rath, secretary of the Department of Food, will succeed Mr. Raja Mani as director general of CAPART. Mr. P. Tripathi, presently secretary of Civil Supplies, will take over as food secretary.

Mr. B.K. Goswamy, director general of tourism, will be the new secretary of civil supplies.

Mr. M. Ghorpade, secretary in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, and Mr. Ashoke Chandra, secretary of food processing industry will change places.

Mr. J.N. Qureshi, adviser to the Jammu and Kashmir governor, will be the secretary in the Ministry of Welfare in place of Mr. P. S. Krishnan, who is retiring.

Some changes in police organizations have also been announced. The director general of Punjab Police, Mr. K.P.S. Gill, has been appointed director general of the CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] against a vacant post. Mr. D.S. Mangat has been tipped off to succeed Mr K.P.S. Gill. Mr. P.S. Bhinder, who has been officiating as DG [director general] of CRPF has been appointed DG of CISF [Central Industrial Security Force].

Paper Reports Testing of Anti-Tank Missile

BK1812102790 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 30 Nov 90 pp 1, 18

[By HINDUSTAN TIMES correspondent]

[Text] New Delhi, Nov. 29—Nag, the third generation anti-tank missile, was successfully flight tested at a range in Orissa this morning. Nag was fired at 8.07 A.M. in the presence of Defence scientists at Interim Test Range, Chandipore.

The four-kilometre range missile was manoeuvred successfully during its controlled flight and, according to a Defence Ministry spkesman here, fully met the objectives of the present trials, which, in fact, began last year. Further tests will be carried out in the coming months.

At the same range last month, successful test flights of long range artillery rockets, PINACA, were also carried out. These tests had also met the technical objectives of the present campaign. The PINACA system will also be further tested and the lethality fully assessed before the operation trials.

With the successful test flight of Nag, the Defence Research and Development Organisation [DRDO] third-generation missiles programme is over.

Already, successful test flights of Prithvi—surface - to - surface missile system; Trishul—short range surface-to-air missile system, and Akash—surface-to-air missile system, have been carried out.

Also, the re-entry technology demonstrator, Agni, was successfully tested on May 22, 1989, from the Interim Test Range. The flight test had established indigenous technology in the areas of multistage propulsion, closed loop inertial guidance and reentry structure. It had afforded the country with the option to deliver conventional warheads with high precision at long ranges.

The second flight test of Prithvi was successfully carried out in September, 1989. This missile is designed to perform the tactical battle-field support role and would function as a high accuracy system to destroy various types of military targets behind the forward line of the battle zone.

Several flight tests of Trishul have been carried out to evaluate the command guidance performance linked to the radar. The wheeled version launcher for this missile system has also been developed. Akash and Nag's guidance technologies had also been demonstrated in the recent past.

Last year, project Nag was in an advanced stage of design finalisation. Ballistic flights to prove the propulsion system had been successfully carried out during March this year.

Nag has "fire and forget" and "top attack" capabilities as the important mission requirements with a view to overcome the disadvantages of the present systems. The reaction time of the missile from "seeker" lock-on is under two seconds.

Nag has been designed to defeat all futuristic armour including reactive armour of ranges up to four kilometres. The missile system can be deployed on tracked and wheeled vehicles and helicopters.

"A dedicated missile carrier" [DMC] on the tracked vehicle allows deplayment of four missiles in a "ready to fire" state on the launcher, in addition, spare missiles can be stowed and loaded ofn to the turret from within the vehicle armour without exposing the crew to enemy, small arms firing, shell splinters and nuclear environment.

Target acquisition system includes thermal sight operating in the 8-12 region with four kilometre recognition range, carbondixoide laser range finder with five kilometre range accuracy, day sight [CCD camera] and other vision aids of the crew.

Nag's "fire and forget" capability is achieved by passive imaging infra-red seeker employing a multi-element focal plane array sensor using mercury cadmium telluride operating in the 8-12u spectal band.

The guidance signal are generated by using real-time image processing hardware meeting computational complexities of about 650 MIPs. [expansion unknown]

It can recognise the target through missile seeker. It also has a real-time radar signal processor to eliminate ground clutter.

Government 'Insensitivity' to Unrest Seen

BK1612133490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] The leaders of the Janata Dal, Telugu Desam, and the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] have accused the center of insensitivity to the growing communal violence in various parts of the country. Addressing a joint news conference in New Delhi today, the leaders of these parties alleged that the situation has deteriorated after the new government came to power at the center. They also urged the prime minister to immediately visit violence-hit areas of different states.

BJP President Warns Against Disturbances

BK1812053290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] president, Mr. Advani, has instructed the chief ministers of the BJP ruled states to take strong action against those attempting to create communal disturbances. Stating this to newsmen in Ahmedabad, the party general secretary, Mr. K.L. Sharma, said that the Gujarat chief minister, Mr. Chimanbhai Patel, should resign owning responsibility for the riots in the state.

BJP Denies Party Behind Communal Violence

BK1512151690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] The Bharatiya Janata Party has demanded the setting up of a three-man commission to be headed by a Supreme Court judge to inquire into the communal violence in different parts of the country. Expressing grave concern over the disturbances, the party's general secretary, Dr. Murlim Manohar Joshi, called upon the people and the government to restore peace and normalcy.

Talking to newsmen in New Delhi today, Dr. Joshi refuted the charge that his party is behind the violence. He described the present disturbances as the handiwork of outside forces to destabilize the country. Mr. Joshi reiterated his demand for early Lok Sabha elections which, according to him, will be the only solution to deal with the present situation.

President Appoints New Governors, Officials

BK1512132590 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] Retired General O.P. Malhotra has been appointed the new governor of Punjab in place of Mr. Virendra Verma. Mr. Verma has been transferred as the Governor of Himachal Pradesh. This was stated by a Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House] communique this evening. The communique says Mr. Markandey Singh has been appointed as the lieutenant governor of Delhi. He replaces Air Chief Marshal Arjan Singh whose resignation has been accepted. Dr. Har Swaroop Singh will be the lieutenant governor of Pondicherry. [Current governor of Pondicherry] Mrs. Chandravati's resignation has also been accepted. The president also accepted the resignation of Mr. Mahipal Singh from the office of the governor of Gujarat. Dr. Sarup Singh, presently the governor of Kerala, will be the new governor of Gujarat. Mr. Basavaiah Rachiah, presently the governor of Himachal Pradesh, will be the governor of Kerala.

In another press communique, the president has appointed the governor of Tamil Nadu, Mr. Surjeet Singh Barnala, as the administrator of the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands in addition to his duties of the governor of Tamil Nadu during the absence of leave of retired Lieutenant General R.S. Dayal.

Sikhs Criticize Punjab Governor's Appointment

BK1512133790 London BBC World Service in English 1200 GMT 15 Dec 90

[From the "Radio Newsreel" program]

[Text] The Indian Government has appointed four new state governors. They include a former chief of Army staff as governor in Punjab where additional troops have been deployed. The move has been criticized by Sikh politicians. Our Delhi correspondent Mark Tully reports:

[Begin Tully recording] The appointment of General O.P. Malhotra follows widespread concern in Delhi and in Punjab over the government's apparent surrender to demands made by the Sikh militants campaigning for independence. The committee which coordinates some of the militant groups has demanded that the government should only use Punjabi, not English, or the national language—Hindi. Following the killing of the head of the government-controlled radio station in the Punjab capital, Chandigarh, Hindi news bulletins were stopped, official press releases were only issued in Punjabi, and (?effort) was made on removing Hindi and English signs from the secretariat. The appointment of General Malhotra also indicates the government's concern about the spurt in violence, which has followed the election of a new government in Pakistan. Five hundred people have been killed since the beginning of November. The appointment of a general has heightened speculation that the government does intend the soldiers recently deployed in the border areas to take action against the Sikh militants operating there. The prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, visited Chandigarh yesterday and said the soldiers were on an exercise. But, that has only heightened confusion about the role of the Army. A confirmed official today earlier said they were deployed to help paramilitary police seal the border.

Mr. Simranjit Singh Mann, the leader of a faction of the Sikh religious party, the Akali Dal, which was successful in the last general election, has described the appointment of General Malhotra as part of a coordinated effort by the government to teach the Sikhs a lesson. The president of the Chief Khalsa Diwan, a prestigious Sikh welfare organization, has warned that the appointment of the general so soon after the Army deployment will have a negative effect on the people. [end recording]

Leader Ready To Meet Shekhar on Punjab Problem

BK1612043690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] The Akali Dal-Mann president, Mr. Simranjit Singh Mann, has said that he can meet the prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, to resolve the Punjab problem provided the agenda to be discussed is put in black and white. He was addressing a press conference in Chandigarh yesterday. Mr. Mann's statement assumes significance in the light of the prime minister's call to all concerned in Punjab to start a new chapter by forgetting each others mistakes to bring back normalcy in the state.

Sikhs Call Army Deployment in Punjab 'Victory'

BK1712093890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0915 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] Amritsar, India, Dec 17 (AFP)—Sikh separatists Monday claimed the Indian Army's recent deployment in Punjab was a victory for their campaign and virtually called for mass civil disobedience in the state's areas bordering Pakistan.

The shadowy Panthic Committee said in a statement in this Sikh holy city that the introduction of the army in Punjab was a tacit admission by New Delhi that it had failed to crush the seven-year- old bloody homeland campaign.

"(The deployment) is a broad indication of the defeat of the Indian rulers and a victory for the militants," said the statement signed by among others the committee's elusive leader Gurbachan Singh Manochahal.

The Indian Government deployed the army in five districts of Punjab a week ago, but insisted that the soldiers were only conducting routine exercises and had not been sent to fight Sikh separatists.

Mr. Manochahal's is the older and more powerful of two Panthic committees which are known as guiding forces behind the campaign for an independent Sikh homeland called Khalistan (Land of the Pure) in Punjab.

The statement said: "With (the army) deployment it has become clear that Punjab police and the paramilitary forces have conceded defeat at the hands of the Sikh militants. Now Indian rulers have come out with a last resort by deployment of the army."

The comittee said that at a secret meeting it had decided on a new "war strategy" to take on the Indian army in the districts of Gurdaspur, Amritsar and Ferozepur, which border Pakistan and are known militant strongholds.

"The present situation is the first phase of the last round of (the) Sikh struggle" for secession from India, the committee said.

It added that it was taking over all "administrative work" in rural border regions, including appointing village chiefs.

In a virtual call for mass disobedience in Amritsar, Gurdaspur and Ferozepur, the committee urged people not to return government loans, banned the national anthem in schools and colleges, and ordered teachers and students to wear saffron—the traditional symbol of Sikh resistance—clothes on Mondays.

Those dissenting from the instructions would be punished, it said.

The statement also urged Indian army soldiers to listen to their "voice of conscience" and quit Punjab.

Mr. Manochahal's statement coincided with a warning by the other Panthic Committee led by Sohan Singh that it would prevent the publication and distribution of newspapers in Punjab if New Delhi clamped press censorship in the troubled state.

It said it would give "a befitting reply" if the government tried to ban reporting the activities of Sikh militants, whose Khalistan campaign has claimed some 3,260 people dead so far in 1990—the worst toll for a single year.

It said in a statement here that it "will not tolerate the spread of disinformation while the truth about militant activities is being suppressed."

It was not clear what had provoked the committee to believe that a clampdown on the media was being considered by the government.

Mr. Sohan Singh's committee, which Indian officials believe has closer links with the Pakistani Government, last month announced a code for journalists and warned that those failing to comply could face death or "memorable punishment".

Among other things, the code requires journalists to stop dubbing Sikh militants "terrorists" or using the term "Pakistan-based" to describe the committee.

Later, the committee also demanded the Punjab government issued press releases only in Punjabi and warned all India radio stations in the trouble state to cease broadcasts in Hindi. Both demands have been complied with.

Punjab's Sikhs and Hindus both speak Punjabi, the state's main language. Hindi is India's national language, spoken mainly by Hindus, who constitute the country's religious majority.

The "code" and other related orders are widely seen as an attempt by Sikh militants to indirectly control the Punjab media.

India accuses Pakistan of arming Sikh militants, a charge that Islamabad has denied.

Paramilitary Sent to Agra; Army on Alert

BK1812055090 Hong Kong AFP in English
0534 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 18 (AFP)—The Indian Government has airlifted paramilitary contingents to the Taj Mahal town of Agra and put the army on alert to halt four days of bloody Hindu-Moslem rioting which left 25 people dead.

Some 400 paramilitary troopers were despatched to Agra Monday to join hundreds of police deployed in the historic town 200 kilometres (125 miles) south of New Delhi, an official spokesman said here.

Press reports said the army had been asked to "keep in readiness" to move into the town if the rioting does not stop.

The statesman and other newspapers said the administration had also decided to open the Taj Mahal to foreign tourists after closing the marble monument for three days because of the violence.

The measures were announced as another four people were killed monday in a continuing wave of knifings, arson and street violence in agra, taking the death toll since sectarian violence erupted Friday to 25, newspapers reported. A woman was among the four killed, the statesman said. She was reportedly shot dead by rioters.

District magistrate A.K. Verma, Agra's chief administrator, told the press that he hoped the situation would be under control in "a day or two."

Police have arrested more than 780 suspects during a house-to-house search and ordered the removal of loudhailers from places of worship being used to fan trouble, the statesman said. A huge quantity of arms and ammunition, petrol bombs, acid bulbs and explosives, swords, spears and daggers were seized Monday during raids, THE TIMES OF INDIA said.

Agra is one of the 11 towns in India to be gripped by Hindu-Moslem violence which erupted over a Hindu crusade to demolish a mosque in the northern town of Ayodhya and build a temple on its ruins.

Some 340 people have died across India since the outbreak on December 7, a day after Hindus resumed their campaign by marching on the shrine and offering themselves up for arrest.

Agra is best known for the Taj Mahal, a 17th-century marble mausoleum built by Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his wife Mumtaz Mahal.

Some two million tourists from across the world travel to Agra annually to see the Taj Mahal, renowned for the perfection of its Mughal architecture. It was closed to tourists Saturday after the communal violence erupted.

The government also shut the red sandstone Agra Fort, built by Emperor Akbar in the 16th century, and the nearby mausoleum of Akbar known as Sikandara.

It was not immediately known whether the Agra administration had thrown open the monuments Tuesday in line with its decision to allow foreign tourists to visit them. Officials in Agra could not be reached for comment.

Parties, Except BJP, Hail Goa President Rule

BK1512151890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] Several political parties in Goa have welcomed the imposition of president's rule in the state. The Congress Democratic Front leader, Dr. Wilfred D'Souza, has said that it will give time for the politicians to come together and provide a stable government in the state. The Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party leader, Mr. Ramakant Khalap, has hailed the promulgation of president's rule for a short period. However, the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] national executive member, Mr. Bhandari, said the decision to keep the assembly in suspended animation is politically motivated.

President's Rule Imposed in Goa After Stalemate

BK1512032290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] President's Rule has been imposed in Goa following the stalemate in the state assembly with no group being able to establish a majority. The assembly has been kept under suspended animation. The president, Mr. Ventakaraman, issued a proclamation under Article 356 of the Constitution late last night bringing the state under President's Rule. Earlier, the union cabinet considered the report of the governor, Mr. Khurshid Alam Khan, who recommended imposition of President's Rule in the state. The imposition of President's Rule in Goa is the culmination of Dr. Barbosa's ministry being reduced to a minority following the withdrawal of the Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party from the ruling Progressive Democratic Front. The MGP leader, Mr. Ramakant Khalap, staked his claim to form an alternative government claiming majority in the 40-member house. On the other hand, Dr. Barbosa offered a tie-up with the Congress-I to counter Mr. Khalap's rule. In the absence of any clear picture emerging, the governor asked Dr. Barbosa to seek a vote of confidence in the assembly last Monday; however, political wranglings culminated in the resignation of Dr. Barbosa.

Reportage on Andhra Pradesh Situation

Chief Quits on 'Moral' Grounds

BK1412161990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] The Congress-I parliamentary board has accepted the offer of resignation made by the Andhra Pradesh chief minister, Dr. Chenna Reddy. Announcing this in New Delhi this afternoon, the party spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, told newspersons that in a letter to the Congress-I president, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, Dr. Reddy had offered to resign on moral considerations. Mr. Gadgil said that the Congress-I parliamentary party board's decision was in no way influenced by any dissident acitivity. He said that the meeting of the state Congress-I legislature party will be called to elect a new leader. A team of observers of the AICC [All India Congress-I Committee] will go to Hyderabad for the purpose. Mr. Gadgil clarified that no member of parliament will be eligible to contest the leadership election in the state.

Talking to our Hyderabad correspondent, Dr. Chenna Reddy said that he had offered to resign voluntarily and on moral grounds. Meanwhile, the scheduled meeting of the state Cabinet in Hyderabad today has been postponed.

Curfew Reimposed in City

BK1512093390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] In Andhra Pradesh, curfew has been reimposed as a precautionary measure in Murshidabad area of Hyderabad city since this morning. Police opened fire to disperse a violent mob, in which one person was injured. The city police commissioner told our correspondent that the law and order situation in the old city area is under control; however, in the fashionable market area of the city, one person was stabbed to death while two others were injured in the stabbing incidents. In the neighboring Rangareddy District, the situation continues to be under control. In Tandul town and four other villages, relaxation in curfew has been given for eight hours from 0800 today. A peace march is being arranged by members of all the communities today.

Front Leaders Demand Election

BK1512152090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] The National Front leaders have endorsed the demand of the front chairman, Mr. N.T. Ramarao, for holding fresh polls in Andhra Pradesh. Speaking at a joint press conference in Hyderabad today, they said lack of political will and failure in discharging fundamental duties are the reasons for the outbreak of violence. The leaders said during the past one month communal atmosphere has been built up in several parts of the country. It is time for all political parties to rise above party politics and forge national integrity. Those who attended the press conference included the former prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh; the Janata Dal president, Mr. S.R. Bommai; and the former home minister, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed.

New Chief Appeals for Peace

*BK1712015090 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0035 GMT 17 Dec 90*

[Text] Mr. N. Janardhan Reddy will be the new chief minister of Andhra Pradesh. He succeeds Dr. Chenna Reddy who resigned accepting moral responsibility for the communal riots in Hyderabad and neighboring areas. Mr. Janardhan Reddy was unanimously elected the leader of the Andhra Pradesh Congress-I legislature party in Hyderabad last night. His name was proposed by the outgoing chief minister, Dr. Chenna Reddy, and seconded by the president of the Pradesh Congress-I Committee, Mr. V. Hanumanth Rao.

The election of Mr. Janardhan Reddy came after daylong hectic political activity in the state capital. The AICC-I [All India Congress Committee-I] observer team comprising Mr. H.K.L. Bhagat, Mr. G.K. Moopnar, Mr. A.K. Anthony, and Mr. Janardhan Poojari held consultations with the party MLA's [members of Legislative Assembly] to ascertain their views.

Mr. Janardhan Reddy was the minister for higher education in the outgoing cabinet. He joined the Chenna Reddy cabinet in 1978 as revenue minister and was cabinet minister in all the subsequent Congress-I governments in the state. He was also president of the state Congress-I committee for some time. The swearing-in ceremoney of the new minister will take place at the Raj Bhawan [governor's house] in Hyderabad at 1100 this morning.

Meanwhile, Mr. Janardhan Reddy has appealed to the people and religious leaders in the state to help restore normalcy in the riot-hit areas. Speaking to news persons immediately after his election, Mr. Reddy said that his first task will be to restore communal peace in the state.

Delhi Sums Up Uttar Pradesh Rioting, Unrest

*BK1612164290 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 16 Dec 90*

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, the situation in the curfew-bound areas of Aligarh, Varanasi and Meerut City and Jahangirpur town of Bulandshahr District continues to be peaceful. The curfew was relaxed in several areas in phases. Khurja town in Bulandshahr District has been brought under the curfew following violent incidents yesterday. The town remained incident-free today. The district administration has made adequate arrangements for the distribution of essential commodities, including medicines, in all the affected areas. The situation in the curfew-bound areas of Agra city is stated to be tense. The home secretary told our Lucknow correspondent that five persons were killed when police opened fire to disperse a violent mob in Mandola police station area yesterday. One body was also recovered from Kotwali police station area. Police patrolling has been intensified in the curfew-bound areas.

The Kanpur District magistrate told our correspondent that there were two incidents of stabbing and firing today in which three persons were injured.

In Gujarat, a few incidents of stone throwing and arson have been reported from Bapunagar in Ahmadabad city. Three persons were injured when police opened fire to disperse a violent mob.

In Andhra Pradesh, pillion-driving on two-wheelers in the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad and neighboring Ranga Reddy District has been banned with immediate effect. The city police commissioner told our Hyderabad correspondent that the ban comes after an incident of stabbing today.

In Rajasthan, two persons were killed in clashes between two communities in Nainwa in Bundi District today. There is some tension in the area following a minor incident between two shopkeepers. Prohibitory orders [banning assembly of four or more persons] have been issued under Section 144.

Janata Dal-S, Congress-I Leaders Meet

*BK1712160990 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 17 Dec 90*

[Text] The Uttar Pradesh chief minister, Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadev, met the Congress-I president, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, in New Delhi today. Mr. Gandhi expressed concern over the escalating communal violence in the state. Briefing newsmen, a Congress-I spokesman alleged that the confidence of the people in some state forces is eroding very sharply. He urged the government to ensure that people continue to believe in the ability of the security forces to protect their lives.

Mr. Gandhi called on the prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, today. Their discussions are said to be of a general nature. Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadev also had a meeting with the prime minister before returning to Lucknow in the evening.

The Janata Dal-S [Socialist] has ruled out any change of leadership in Uttar Pradesh saying it is an internal matter of the party. Reacting to the demand by some Congress-I leaders for a change of the chief minister, the party spokesman, Mr. Satyaprakash Malaviya, said in New Delhi the Congress-I had extended unconditional support to the Mulayam Singh Yadev government and it will not be doubted unless the party president, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, himself comes out with the demand. He said the state Janata Dal-S legislature party had elected Mr. Yadev as its leader and there is no question of reassessing the situation now. The Janata Dal-S spokesman also said his party is not in favor of the dissolution of the Andhra Pradesh Assembly as demanded by the former prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh.

Uttar Pradesh To Look Into Ayodhya Incidents

BK1812053890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] The Uttar Pradesh government has announced a judicial inquiry into the Ayodhya incident and the recent communal riots in the state. This was stated by the chief minister. Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadav, in Lucknow yesterday. Talking to newsmen, Mr. Yadav said the inquiry will look into the incidents which happened in Ayodhya on 30 October and 2 November. He said that the appointment of a judge to conduct the inquiry will be announced soon.

Referring to the implementation of the Mandal Commission report, the chief minister said that his government is considering to extend reservations to the economically weaker section among the upper castes. The chief minister also disclosed that he will meet the leader of the oppositions in the state assembly, Mr. N.D. Tiwari, at least twice a month to ensure coordination.

Meanwhile, the situation in the curfew-bound cities and towns is returning to normal. According to an official spokesman in Lucknow, no untoward incident has been reported from anywhere during the past two days. The curfew is being relaxed in phases in Aligarh, Varanasi, and five police station areas of Meerut. The situation is also reported to be peaceful in the curfew-bound areas of Agra city. The army deployed in curfew-bound areas in Kanpur to assist the civil administration was withdrawn last night after an improvement in the situation. The situation also continues to be peacful in Khurja and Jahangirpur towns of Bulandshahr District; however, police patrolling continues in these areas as a precautionary measure.

Security Tightened After Kashmir Rocket Attack

BK1512155390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, security arrangements have been tightened and patrolling intensified in Jammu city following firing of two rockets which fell inside the premises of Indian oil depot in Chani late last night. The rockets caused minor damage. The police are pursuing the clues and are on the lookout for culprits.

Iran

National Security Council Meets, Discusses Gulf

NC1612071490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] The Supreme Council for National Security met yesterday afternoon with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani presiding and with the participation of its members, military commanders, and political advisers.

During this meeting, the latest situation in the area and our president's important talks with the Algerian president and with the chairman of the Revolution Command Council for National Salvation of Sudan, as well as Foreign Minister Velayati's talks with the Turkish president were discussed. Also, emphasis was placed on the need for efforts to find a peaceful solution and to keep the area immune from the threat of a military confrontation.

Paper Says Involvement in Gulf Solution Necessary

LD1512173790 Tehran IRNA in English 1537 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 15 [IRNA]—The Persian daily KEYHAN said in a commentary Saturday that the Persian Gulf Crisis has remained unsolved partly because no peace formula for the region may be conceived without the involvement of Iran.

It said Washington is looking after a reliable substitute for the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, but noted that because of the divergence in the political standing between the governments of the region, among them Iran and Saudi Arabia, the idea of installing a new security system in the region looks continually more difficult to United States.

KEYHAN said: Every crisis has a so-called "red line" unto it, and the breaking of the red line or the "danger line," as it is also known, inescapably leads the situation away from one form to another, and for example, entails a short-scale or large scale military encounter. Insistence by one government on its positions is a risk-taking device, which will eventually bring defeat to the obstinate party.

The Iraqi regime understands this point perfectly well and much as the position by Iraq seems conditioned by obstinacy, but it will continue with risk taking only as much as it would be safe and only as long as it is assured of its sovereignty.

Willful persistence by Iraq has at times left an impact on the behaviour of its opponent party, the Americans.

At any rate the Americans have long since drawn the red line in the present crisis, which involves Saudi Arabia. Obviously in the light of the situation the Iraqi Government is not likely to attack Saudi Arabia, although by issuing the UN Security Council resolution the Americans have practically increased pressure on Baghdad.

Despite that Iraq wishes to see the perpetuation of the status quo and at the same time it seems to be opting for some assurance that it will not be attacked by foreign forces. On the other hand the United States wishes that the oil rich al-Rumaylah province be ceded to Iraq and border lines between Iraq-Kuwait be demarcated on that basis. [sentence as received]

In light of the judgement the future of the region is now all too obvious: geo-political changes and the continued presence in the region of the U.S. forces. But how far will the United States go and how does it view the future of the region in light of its large forces which also has the backing of the UN Security Council?

It seems that the United States still needs more time for venturing into military action against Iraq... The United States has both short term as well as long term concern in the region. And therefore a compromise in the region seems to ensure the interests of the United States better than does an active war.

To the Americans what is more important countries of the Persian Gulf is the proposition for the establishment in the region of a substitute security system: A system in the Persian Gulf which may serve the goals of the United States as a substitute for the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council.

Obviously one principal element which has thus far prevented the U.S. attacking Iraq is the region. And because Iran with its powerful military capacity cannot be excluded from any treaty and peace formula without the active involvement of Iran would be unworkable. [sentence as received]

The severance in relations between Iran and the United States has been a major stumbling block to the realization of Washington's hope for the establishing of a U.S.-approved system in the region which situation exists in addition to the divergence between the ruling political systems in the region.

The divergence between Iran and Saudi Arabia is a good reason for the implications of the proposition of agreeing on a treaty more powerful than the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council.

The efforts by France and certain Arab states of the Persian Gulf for involving Iran in some sort of security treaty before the deadline to Iraq by the UN resolution is evidence of the complications of the alternative of going to war with Iraq and of the complex problems that are likely to affect the United States.

As far as the Americans are concerned their assurance about Iran's attitude and Iran's approach to the issue is a principle determinant in their dealing with Iraq, not to mention other factors such as the attitudes of the Soviets and the Europeans towards future developments in the Persian Gulf.

Editorial Assesses Bush's Invitation to 'Aziz

NC0712130990 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 2 Dec 90 p 2

[Editorial: "'Aziz Invitation Gives U.S. a Way Out"]

[Text] U.S. President George Bush on Friday [30 November] called on Iraq to send its foreign minister to Washington for talks on the Persian Gulf crisis. Bush also proposed to send his Secretary of State James Baker to Baghdad in a last ditch bid to avert war in the Persian Gulf.

In a nationally-televised address, Bush said "to go the extra mile for peace" he was inviting Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz of Iraq to the White House during the month of December to discuss the crisis with him. The proposal by Bush came one day after the UN Security Council issued a resolution authorizing the use of force against Iraq if it did not quit Kuwait by January 15.

There are two views regarding Bush's latest proposal. First is that, as Bush himself suggested, he was to give the Baghdad's leaders a last chance for a peaceful solution to the crisis. Or in other words, the U.S. President wants to tell the American public and world opinion that he tried ever peaceful means. Even the Security Council Resolution 678 was approved under U.S. pressure because Washington is allegedly trying to show that it cares for international laws and regulations and observes them. It also wants to demonstrate that if it embarked on a military action one day, the decision would not be regarded as superpower hegemony but an attempt to carry out the approval of an international body.

A second view, with no less supporters than the first, is that the proposal by Bush stems from the fact that White House leaders have not included an attack on Iraq in their scenario. The reasons for this action are the uncertainty about the result of battle, about the destructive power of Iraq's chemical arsenals, about the catastrophic effects of war on oil prices, as well as a lack of firm decision from Washington to destroy the Iraqi army which would disturb the military balance in the region. Finally there is also the time limit question for a military confrontation which needs to be over by the end of March, coinciding with the holy fasting month of Ramadan and the onset of summer.

The above-mentioned reasons lead some political observers to maintain that the Bush invitation to Tariq 'Aziz to visit Washington is in fact a realization of the existing facts in the region by U.S. foreign policy. It also gives a concession to the Baghdad leaders so that the U.S. could come out of the current crisis honorably.

Editorial on U.S. Loss of Credibility Among Arabs

NC1412153390 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 5 Dec 90 p 2

[Editorial: "War, a Product of Frustration"]

[Text] More than a decade after the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, anti-U.S. sentiments by its leader and government seem to be as strong as ever. This fact is to a large extent due to the U.S. government's stance toward Israel or the "illegal Zionist state".

The Islamic Republic has tried, very consciously so, to maintain its support for the Palestinian cause and that opposition or irreconcilability toward Israel has remained as the core of its foreign policy toward the Middle East.

In fact if support for the cause of the oppressed and deprived masses is supposed to be the centerpiece of the Islamic Revolution, then the Palestinians in the occupied territories should be the undisputable recipients of it. Since no group of people have been subjected to as much (publicized) injustice and repression as the innocent Palestinian people.

The Palestinians and their Arab supporters have, however, tried to deal with this Zionist-created problem as flexibly and logically as possible and on many occasions voiced their consent to sit down with the Israelis to work out a solution mutually acceptable. But, unfortunately, what the Israelis want is no negotiation but complete capitulation to their demands. They keep defying logic and advance hostile policies toward the Palestinians in their own homeland.

There is unanimity that this defiance of logic and perpetuation of injustice stems from the unconditional support given to them (Israelis) by the West and particularly the United States. They have given Israel a blank cheque or a carte blanche in effect to do what it wants: kick around Palestinians and invade whatever land it wants to.

It is this irrational support for Israel—in the face of the inhumane measures it practices against the children of Palestine—that have eroded Western credibility among the masses in the Middle East. It is exactly because of this double standard that even when they (Western governments) advocate a just cause (the expulsion of the Iraqi occupation forces from Kuwait) the masses treat it with suspicion and go out of their way to reason out that they are pursuing selfish ends in complete disregard for what is bad or good for the people of the region.

The Israeli government's treatment of Palestinians and its complete indifference toward their justice-seeking cries have radicalized Palestinian and Arab masses. They have begun to think, even more so that before, that the way to do it is to bring pain home to Israeli people. The new suicide attacks in Palestine, South Lebanon and Egypt are manifestations of this radicalism. However, this new attitude is dangerous and inducive of war and the U.S. is, in the final analysis, the main cause of it.

There is agreement that Iraq's occupation of Kuwait is unjust and that is why it has received world condemnations including those of the Arab and Islamic nations. But, when it comes to an action by the U.S. and its Western allies to reverse it, it does not receive the popular and grass roots support it needs to become a success. If occupation of a foreign country and the application of repressive measures against its people is bad then Palestine should receive as much or more attention than Kuwait. But it is not, and that is why the Arab masses and the Palestinians oppose the U.S. action against Iraq. And again that's why the U.S. and its allies' efforts will not succeed and should they initiate a war against Iraq they will only get the animosity of all Arabs and Muslims for decades to come.

If war should break out between U.S. and Iraq it will be invariably the outcome of the frustration that the U.S., through its allout support for Israel, has produced among Arabs. Since occupation of Kuwait and the irrational insistance to keep it occupied is for nothing but to give the Americans a dose of the same kind of frustration it has been giving the Arabs. [sentence as published] However, if the proposed negotiation between Washington and Baghdad should work and war gets averted then there will be other wars or War [as published] should America, or in general the Western world, keep helping Israel to continue its oppression of Palestinian people and the belittling of the Arab and Muslim masses.

Piruzi-1 Naval Air-Sea Exercises Continue

Second Phase Begins

LD1612112190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] The second phase of the Piruzi-1 [Victory-1] exercises, aimed at raising the level of operational skill of the Islamic Republic and the Guards Corps naval forces, commenced in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman today. We begin our news bulletin with a report from our colleague from Bandar-e 'Abbas on the start of the second phase of the Piruzi-1 exercises.

[Unidentified correspondent] After the completion of the preparatory phase of the joint Piruzi-1 exercises, the second phase commenced this morning with the launching of the vessels. The exercises, which are aimed at raising the level of operational skill and creating the necessary coordination between the Islamic Republic Navy and the Guards Corps Navy, in a 30,000 square km area in the southern Persian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, and Indian Ocean, has four stages and will last four days. Dozens of destroyers, missile frigates, combat support ships, troop transports, the air fleet, fighters of the Islamic Republic Navy, special units of the Guards Corps Navy, some ground forces personnel, minesweeper helicopter squadrons, and a Navy marine brigade will take part in the exercises.

The large-scale land and sea exercises will entail joint, ASW operations by heavy vessels and fast boats, passage through mine-swept channels, electronic warfare, aerial tracking, amphibious landings, and the use of the latest complex and advanced electronic systems.

One of the outstanding points about the Piruzi-1 exercises is the presence of the destroyer Sabalan, which was officially launched yesterday by His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the great leader of the Islamic revolution and the commander in chief, and joined the fleet of the mighty navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The joint Piruzi-1 exercises continue in the Persian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, the strategic Strait of Hormuz, and the Indian Ocean.

Third Phase 'Totally Successful'

LD1712131890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Report by Central News Unit correspondent from the Persian Gulf Center in Bandar-e 'Abbas]

[Text] The third phase of the Piruzi-1 joint exercises was totally successful in and over the blue waters of the Persian Gulf, the Gulf of Oman, and the northern Indian Ocean. Naval vessels sailed by, aircraft flew past, and there was a show of the Iranian Navy and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] special combat capabilities.

This phase of the exercises involved dozens of light and heavy destroyers; logistic battleships; personnel-carrier battleships; missile-launching frigates; gunboats; the mine-sweeping, anti-surface and anti-submarine helicopters of the Iranian Navy; dozens of Taroq patrol boats and Ashura, Tasu'a, 'Iman and Fateh naval vessels equipped with guns and advanced surface-to-surface and surface-to-air missiles; heavy support-combat vessels; tug-boats; personnel-carriers; landing crafts and speed boats equipped with the air defense systems of the IRGC's naval force; and also the rapid flying fighter bombers of the Iranian Air Force including MiG-29s and the huge transport helicopters of Iran's ground forces in conjunction with naval marines and several mine laying and scuba diving teams of the IRGC.

The third phase of the exercises continued with a number of IRGC speed boats carrying out new military line-ups [arayesh] which are a result of the experience gained during eight years of holy defense and resistence to the threats of global arrogance in the Persian Gulf. In this military line-up, the self-sacrificers of the IRGC's naval force displayed the tactic of surrounding the vessel of a hypothetical enemy with a special orderliness and coordination.

It is worth mentioning that what drew the greatest attention during this phase of the Piruzi-1 joint exercises was the existence of total unity, solidarity, and coordination between the Navy and the IRGC's naval forces—something which has made the exercises even more splendid. Let me add that the Piruzi-1 joint exercises of Iran's three forces and the IRGC's naval force is still continuing on the blue waters of the Persian Gulf, the Gulf of Oman, and the Indian Ocean.

New IRGC Ship Used

LD1712145290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] Concurrent with the Piruzi-1 joint exercises, vessels known as Asad and constructed by the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps have become operational for the first time. According to IRNA, the vessel is equipped with powerful radar and fire-guiding systems. Several of the vessels are being used in the Piruzi-1 joint exercises.

Cabinet Meeting Discusses 'Most Important' Issues

LD1212184190 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] The Cabinet held a session this afternoon. The meeting first discussed the most important domestic and foreign issues. Some proposals of the executive organs which had received preliminary investigation in the Cabinet committees were then raised, and some of them were approved.

One of the issues approved by today's Cabinet meeting concerned the policy of decentralization in the country's management system. On the basis of this resolution, ministries and government departments in the capital are dutybound as central headquarters [vahedhaye setadi] to be in charge of planning, coordination and the setting up of executive principles and standards, supervision and evaluation on a centralized basis. However, in issues which concern the provinces, they should delegate executive prerogatives to the provinces.

At the proposal of the interior minister and the approval of the Cabinet, Mr. Mohammad Reza Ayatollahi was appointed governor general of Western Azerbaijan. The Cabinet expressing its appreciation for the services of that late Engineer 'Ata'i, the former governor general of that province, and paid respects to his memory.

Guardians Council Statement on Majles, Budget Bill

LD1112133290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Dec 90

["Text" of statement released by the Council of Guardians on the Budget Amendment Bill for 1369, year ending 20 March 1991]

[Text] In connection with the statement issued by the Public Relations Office of the esteemed Majles, released in response to opinion number 1162 of the Council of Guardians, issued on 9 December 1990 on the Budget Amendment Bill for the year 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991], the following points are explained:

1. The said bill of the esteemed Majles was received by the Secretariat of the Council of Guardians on 29 November 1990; the Council of Guardians expressed its opinion on 7 December 1990, that is, before termination of the 10-day deadline.

2. If the Islamic Majles believes that the day of handing the said bill to the security guards of the Council of Guardians on 2 October 1990 [as heard] should be regarded as the date when the bill is communicated to the Council of Guardians, then the following should be pointed out:

First, on another similar occasion, in the year 1987-88, when the Labor Bill was submitted to the council. At that time the then speaker of the Islamic Majles asked for guidance of the Council of Guardians. At the time the Council of Guardians expressed its opinion in letter number 9976, of 21 February 1988 to the effect that the date of communicating a bill to the Council of Guardians is the date when it is received by the Secretariat of the Council. The esteemed Majles at the time accepted this proposal.

Second, even if one were to consider the date of handing over the Majles bill to the security guards of the Council of Guardians as the day of communication to the Council of Guardians, still the Council of Guardians has expressed its opinion within the legal deadline, in accordance with Article 194 of the Constitution. This article states that the day of communication [of a bill to the Council of Guardians] and the day of action [day the Council declares its opinion] are not considered as part of the 10-day deadline. This issue was also explained to the esteemed Majles in connection with the Labor Bill; and the Islamic Majles accepted it.

Paper Says Intifadah Not Led by 'Arafat

LD0612183190 Tehran IRNA in English 0830 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 6, IRNA—The Persian daily 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' said Thursday [6 December] that the first Islamic conference on Palestine to review and evaluate the course of the struggle of Muslim Palestinians is a token of Iran's support for the current uprising in Palestine.

It said in a commentary, "Israel and her supporters have felt in a bitter experience that despite their trust in Yasir 'Arafat and in clique of compromisers, the developments in Palestine are led from another source in which 'Arafat has no word, and that any concession they should give to 'Arafat and his wing from now on would be useless."

It added that the current uprising in the occupied Palestine will never calm down. "Once the arrowhead of the struggle is the entirety of a national and once a struggle has assumed popular dimensions, the triumph of the oppressed will be a certainty provided, of course, that in the mid-course they act more alertly—curtail the hands of plotters and block the infiltration of enemy agents into the rank and file of the nation."

Passenger Shipping Line With Qatar Established

LD1612183490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] The head of the Ports and Shipping Organization [PSO] has announced that the loading and unloading for imported and exported goods in the country's ports is over 11 million tonnes, which is an increase of 30 percent compared with a similar period last year. According to a report of the Central News Unit on the plan to modernize the country's ports, he said: This year 60 million rials worth of various equipment required by ports, which speeds up the job of loading and unloading, has been purchased. This will increase the capacity of the country's ports to 28 million tonnes.

He added: At present, we have 25 jetties ready to receive ships. However, there are still ships loaded with grain waiting to dock. If we were to utilize the system of unloading grain directly from ships to trucks, the waiting time would be shortened.

With regard to the establishment of new shipping lines in the Persian Gulf region, the PSO head said: The first passenger line between Bushehr and Qatar will start on 30 December 1990, and Iran, on the basis of an agreement, in addition to teaching maritime science to Qatari students, will cooperate with that country in the construction of sea ports and airports.

Muslim Situation in India To Be Investigated

LD1612175690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Excerpt] The cabinet held a session this afternoon to discuss important domestic and foreign events and the worrying news on the fate of the Muslims in India. The cabinet expressed regret for the events which have developed because of attacks by the fanatical Hindus on India's Muslims. The cabinet has agreed to send a delegation to India in order to investigate the situation of the Muslims. [passage omitted]

Agreement Reached on Expanding Ties With Greece

LD1312191790 Tehran IRNA in English 1818 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Excerpts] Athens, Dec. 13, IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran and Greece today signed two agreements aimed at expanding and strengthening bilateral ties following the visit to Athens of Iranian Housing and Urban Development Minister Serajeddin Kazeruni.

The agreement of mutual understanding between the two countries was signed by Kazeruni and Greek Environment, Town Planning and Public Works Minister Stefanos Manos at the residence of the ambassador of the Islamic Republic during a luncheon reception. [passage omitted]

"We in the Greek Government are all happy with the meeting which I had with my colleague from Iran. We discussed a lot of issues and I think we opened a lot of windows to many possibilities and now it depends on our two governments to make them a reality," Manos told the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) after the signing ceremony.

The Iranian minister told IRNA that he held "very good and useful talks" during his 3-day official visit to Greece.

"We have prepared the groundwork for cooperation in international relations, culture and all sectors. The goodwill of Greece is the best condition for strengthening of bilateral relations," he said.

Kazeruni added that he held very fruitful talks with Greek Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis. [passage omitted]

Earlier, Kazeruni signed an international road transportation agreement with Transport and Communications Minister Nikolaos Gelestathis to regulate and encourage transportation of goods and passengers between Iran and Greece.

The provision of the agreement entitles carriers for transport of passengers and goods by road in vehicles between their territories or in transit through their territories.

Expressing his happiness for meeting the Iranian minister, Gelastathis told IRNA that "the traditional friendship between our two peoples will now be more strong because we will try to expand economic and trade relations."

The transport agreement was signed at the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

Greece's ambassador to Tehran, Dhimitrios Vidhouris, said that the visit of the Iranian delegation was "very fruitful." "The visit had results. The two countries have signed the agreement of mutual understanding and the transport agreement. I, as the ambassador of Greece to Iran, am very happy that relations, which were always good, have now become more energetic and fruitful," he said. [passage omitted]

Velayati Interested in Broader Spanish Ties

LD1212081990 Tehran IRNA in English 0527 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] Madrid, Dec. 12, IRNA—A message of Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati on promotion of Tehran-Madrid ties was submitted to his Spanish counterpart Francisco Fernandez Ordonez here Tuesday.

Velayati in the message, handed over by Iranian Ambassador to Madrid Abdollah Zifan in a meeting with Fernandez, has voiced the conviction that in the light of mutual interest bilateral ties can be upgraded.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed the existing grounds for expansion of bilateral relations.

Fernandez Ordonez also reiterated that Spain was interested in further promotion of relations with the Islamic Republic.

*Shahpur Petrochemical Complex To Be Constructed

91AS0259M London KEYHAN in Persian 15 Nov 90 p 4

[Text] A large South Korean contracting company submitted the winning bid of $150 million in competitive bidding for a contract to build an industrial complex to produce petrochemical products in Bandar Shapur. The report of the success of the Korean [Dalim] Company was given to the mass and international media recently by the SOUTH KOREAN NEWS AGENCY.

In part of its report, this news agency announced that in late October the Islamic Republic and the Korean [Dalim] Company signed a contract to build the petrochemical industrial complex, as well as several other industrial contracts. News sources in Seoul announced that the value of the contracts signed between the Tehran Islamic regime and the aforementioned Korean company is about $450 million.

South Korean industrial sources explained that the first stage of the contract signed with the Korean [Dalim] Company will include the construction of a unit to produce Ethylene. This unit's production capacity will reach 300,000 tons per year. The SOUTH KOREAN NEWS AGENCY also announced that this nation's industrial officials recently succeeded in signing a $147 million contract to build a thermal electric power station in Iran. This news agency also mentioned the [Dalim] Company as the contractor doing the work.

*Tehran, Belgrade To Begin Air Route Links

91AS0286G London KEYHAN in Persian 8 Nov 90 p 4

[Text] Tehran and Belgrade will soon be linked by air. Talks on establishing an air route between the two cities began in early November this year, and it is expected that, if the resources are made available, by next spring aircraft from the Iranian and Yugoslavian airlines will be landing in the capitals of the two nations. According to a report from the TANJUG NEWS AGENCY in Belgrade, officials of the Yugoslav National Airlines intend to begin talks on creating an air route between Tehran and Belgrade, and then to sign the appropriate agreements. The news agency announced that recently the federal government of Yugoslavia submitted to the Islamic Republic's officials a proposal to begin talks. In part of its report, the TANJUG NEWS AGENCY explained that the date of the flight between Tehran and Belgrade is to be included in the schedule for next winter, which will be printed in a few weeks.

*RESALAT 29 Oct Majles Report

91AS0183A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 29 Oct 90 pp 5, 11

[Text] Legal and Majles Division—The Majles held an open session yesterday morning, chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi.

In this session, after remarks by the representatives of Borujen, Tehran, Aligudarz, and also remarks by Mr. Karrubi, the Majles session was called to order.

The following is the text of the remarks by the pr-agenda speakers, Mr. Karrubi's remarks, and the resolutions passed by the Majles:

Davud Towhidi, the Representative of the People of Borujen and Lordegan: The Maneuver of a Bunch of Selfish, Ignorant, Angry Usurpers Is Not Something That Can Be Forgiven and Requires the People's Presence on the Scene

The first pre-agenda speaker during yesterday's open session of the Majles was Mr. Towhidi, the representative of the people of Borujen and Lordegan, who stated:

I find it necessary to proclaim the support of myself, the people of Chahar Mahall va Bakhtiari Province, and my constituency for the valuable and wise statements and firm advice of the unrivaled and exalted leader of the Islamic world, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, which brought back to memory the moving warnings of our late imam.

In another part of his speech, he cursed and damned the Zionist regime, the criminal America, and the reactionary Arab regimes and, in connection with the heroic uprising of the people of Palestine, emphasized: The defiant Palestinian nation, the children and the youth of Palestine have found their path and shall continue on this path, which is relentless struggle against the usurping regime of Israel to the point of destruction.

In this regard, he asked for a Muslim Jihad against the Zionist regime and warned: Why should the House of Muslims and dear Qods [Jerusalem] be the subject of disrespect and desecration at the hands of the lowest, most evil, and filthiest enemies of the Koran, Islam, and humanity for over 40 years? It is the divine duty and religious obligation of all Muslims in the world to rise up against this symbol of corruption and infected cancer tumor, in order to finish it off. If it were not for several years of negligence by the Islamic nation, this sacred land of the Islamic world and the Muslims first gebleh [point to which prayers are directed] would not be in the hands of the Jews, while, everyday, a number of Muslims are ruthlessly murdered and dragged in blood and dirt. Why should a population of 1 billion Muslims be silent before a population of 2 million? How much power and might does America have?! Certainly, these human rights assemblies that claim to defend the rights of mankind have not done anything so far and all their claims have been, and remain to be, absolute lies. As the exalted leader of the Islamic world stated: "Is it possible to push back Israel with resolutions? They do not understand anything but the language of force. Except with force, weapons, and strikes, Israel will not retreat. All of the worlds Muslims, no matter where they are, must feel responsible toward the Palestinian issue.

Also, in connection with the presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf region, Mr. Towhidi said: It is best for the godless transgressors, occupiers, and opportunists to leave the Muslim land as soon as possible and leave the solution of the issue concerning the Islamic countries to the leaders of Islamic countries. Otherwise, they must be sure that the unified Islamic nation will turn the Persian Gulf into their cemetery, and they will be forced to leave in disgrace and humiliation.

He continued by reading the excerpts of a text of the late imam's remarks concerning the position and status of the Majles, the need for compliance with the interests of the regime and the revolution, and the religious limits that must be observed in pre-agenda speeches, discussions, etc. by deputies, and said:

Regretfully, during the past two weeks, the statements of some of the colleague deputies have offended the Hezbollahi nation, the esteemed families of martyrs, the disabled veterans, and the beloved freed POWs. In turn, this caused the Muslims' leader of the time, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, to also take offense to the point where he was forced to say: "Such talks were not the statements of acquaintances, but the words of strangers. We have heard the likes of these words in these few years from radio Israel, Radio America, the Hypocrites radio, and others like these."

Continuing, Mr. Towhidi added: Of course, I have to admit, this is not the first time that the most important and fundamental achievements of the Islamic revolution—the sacred principles and institutions of leadership, the Council of Guardians, and the Assembly of Experts—have been the subject of such disrespect. We have had many such instances in the past, perpetrated by these gentlemen who advertise the slogan of following the Imam's line. Among these instances are the issue concerning the Guards—in which the imam personally interceded—and, also, when His Eminence the imam designated a number of individuals as the Expediency Discernment Council—when in a meeting it was said that, taking refuge with God, even the imam has made a mistake in the selection of individuals. Also, concerning the minister of foreign affairs and other instances.

Mr. Towhidi added: I must say that, fortunately, the Islamic revolution—to the envy of domestic and foreign enemies—under the leadership of the wisest, the most politically oriented, the bravest, and the most competent and suited individual, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, continues on its designated path—which is the same as the line of our late imam. It proceeds with the same wisdom, bravery, fighting spirit, decisiveness, appropriate adoption of positions, and with great speed. A maneuver, albeit not unexpected, by a bunch of selfish, ignorant, angry usurpers—which does the foreign radios proud—is not something that can be forgiven, and requires the people's presence on the scene. Thank God, our alert and conscience nation, possessing that revolutionary zeal and maturity, are watchful. Here, I consider it my obligation to extend my appreciation and thanks to the Hezbollahi nation for their alertness, care, presence on the scene of the Experts elections, and supporting the leader of the Muslims. Indeed, why is it that at a time when the decrees of the leader of the Muslims must be obeyed and the grand sources of emulation consider participation in the elections to be a religious duty, some of these gentlemen have turned jurist, have issued decrees, and say, "If we even think that those who voted engaged in a religious endeavor and those who did not participate in the elections committed a sin, a fault, and an anti-revolutionary act, this is a big mistake and, for whatever reason, we have not understood our society." I must say to these gentlemen that you have not understood Islam, religious jurisprudence, and the fundamentalist society. But the society knows you well now and follows the rule of the supreme jurisconsult and the grand sources of emulation much better than you can and, in this path, it is ready to sacrifice lives. Distinguished Speaker! Don't you know that issuing religious edicts and decrees is the prerogative of the source of emulation, the leader of the time of the Muslims, or the jurist, and is issued in accordance with the interests of Islam and Muslims? God forbid, the incorrect presentation of decrees by a non-jurist like you is an insult to jurisprudence and the jurists. It is not necessary for you to interpolate the explanation of your decree for society. The society has recognized its path. It will be proven, by the history of the revolution, that the nation has been and always will be behind the source of emulation and the leadership. I hope that the gentlemen pay heed to the decrees of the leader of the time of the Muslims, take steps to correct themselves, refrain from wasting His Eminence's time in this regard, and allow his efforts to be focused on the administration of the affairs of the world Muslims.

Mr. Towhidi then read the message of a number of deputies concerning the activities of the Office to Enhance Solidarity as follows:

The brave and ever-present-on-the-scene nation. As you well know, it has been some time since the criminal America has launched divisive acts, in order to weaken the exalted leadership, through its suspicious and trained agents and its colonialist heralds. A distinguished example of this is statement number two, issued by the Headquarters to Conduct the 4 Novembr Ceremonies (the Office to Strengthen Solidarity). The same office that has taken advantage of the pure and flexible spirit of some Muslim university students and—contrary to the past and by changing its fundamentalist nature—has hired a number of sincere wage-earners. The office that, in effect, confronted the exalted leadership, boycotted and condemned the elections. The office that, in its second declaration titled "Struggle Against America", avoided stating the name of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution, after the name of His Eminence the passed imam and, in effect, refrained from naming this tireless leader, who has confronted America and arrogance. The office that makes up and announces its own week of the struggle against arrogance; While, customarily, the announcement of special weeks—such as Basij Week and Holy Defense Week—was made and the ceremonies were held upon the direction of the passed imam and official and legal sources. Now, therefore, it is even more necessary for us to have a sense of responsibility, to have knowledge of the hatching conspiracy and the creeping coup d'etat, and act decisively. Therefore, we, a number of Majles deputies, condemn and boycott such gatherings and request from the sincere students of the Islamic revolution to prove their loyalty to the rule of the supreme jurisconsult by avoiding participation in such gatherings.

He added: I request from the esteemed minister of culture and higher education to prevent the use of resources belonging to the Muslim treasury by a specific group of speakers and, in the event of the occurrence of events and infiltration by anti-revolutionary forces and hypocrites in such gatherings, I shall hold the esteemed minister of interior and the esteemed minister of intelligence responsible.

'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, the Representative of the People of Tehran, Continuing His Attacks Against the Experts Elections: Regretfully, as I Warned About the Experts' Resolutions in My Previous Speech, the Circumstances of the Elections Proved That Some Hands Are Perilously Trying To Eliminate the Faction Endorsed by the Imam

The second pre-agenda speaker during yesterday's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles was Mr. 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, from the Tehran constituency, who said: I wanted to present to the Majles and the dear people a report of the very sensitive Inter-Parliamentary Conference, and the activities and the revolutionary and honorable presence of the parliamentary delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran and confrontation with the plans and conspiracies of Western arrogance, America, and Zionism. However, after returning, I have witnessed worrisome events as a result of which I must ask for God's help in protecting the revolution and the sacred regime of the Islamic Republic.

God, you witness that these children of Islam, the revolution, and the imam have no other goal and purpose than to aid your religion, the Islamic revolution, the high aspirations of the great leader of the revolution, and to safeguard the sanctity of the blood of the martyrs, and they are willing to sacrifice everything to persevere the Islamic revolution.

God, you witness that those who have suffered and the loyal disciples of our passed imam are innocently the target of accusations, allegations, and poisonous rumors and, to please you, endure all the difficulties.

God, you witness how the pure faces of these conquerors of Kheybar [a fort that was conquered by Imam 'Ali], the den of American spies, is being scratched bloody from behind the podium or in front of the Islamic Consultative Majles on the threshold of 4 November by a number of deceived or well known spiteful individuals. They are being accused of exactly the same thing that they have spent all of their political life in struggle against.

He accused the country's officials of carelessness in regard to practical measures against arrogance and said: Very dangerous conspiracies are being hatched by the world arrogance led by the world monger America and its agents in the Islamic world. On one hand, all the respect, honor, and sacred aspirations of revolutionary

Islam in the Middle East, the Persian Gulf, and in the sacred land of Revelation (Hijaz) is being smashed under the feet of America and despite the clear view of the Islamic revolution and its leadership based on jihad, no move, uprising, and executive and practical planning have been implemented by the executives of the country and the leaders of Islamic countries. On the other hand, the occupying regime of Palestine massacres the defenseless people of Palestine with ease of mind and the militant Zionists open fire on the faithful inside the sacred shrine of the Al-Aqsa Mosque. At the same time, the American al-Ta'if plan is implemented to disarm the struggling Muslim forces of Hezbollah and Palestine in Lebanon, with the aid of reactionary Arab leaders, while Islamic circles and the Islamic Republic remain silent. Murmurs about the imminent release of Western and American hostages, coming from factions and various media, gain strength. This is at a time when America, at present, is holding all of the Middle East hostage, and like a wolf is smiling at its prey. Under such circumstances, the brave presence of the self-sacrificers of the revolution, the loyal disciples and sons of true Islam and the Imam, is required in order to strike at and defeat this vengeful enemy, the criminal America. We witness their isolation and elimination by suspicious and spiteful elements and it is only natural that the enemies of Islam—America and Zionism—celebrate.

This sad dusk happens to be on the anniversary of the glorious Day of God, the second revolution, the pride inducing day of 4 November, marking the conquering of the den of spies at the hands of the great conquerors, the students following the line of the Imam, and the anniversary of the struggle and the loud cry of our past Imam against America, during the crisis of Capitulation, when he said: "America is worse than Russia, and Russia is worse than America, and England is worse than both, and all are worse than each other. However, today we deal with America, and today the American president is among the most despised to the Iranian nation."

All this glory and greatness of the past is the result of the Islamic revolution and the idol-smashing of the nation under the leadership of the Imam. Therefore, the future of the revolution requires the following points:

1. Continuation of the logical line of the revolution and its achievements in all areas, maintaining alertness and confronting the conspiracies of liberals, the Hojjatiyeh Society, and the followers of American Islam, without deviation from the principle of "neither East, nor West."

2. The necessity of keeping the people on the scene through implementation of principles and aspirations of the imam's revolution.

3. The necessity to expel the undesirables and the misfits so that the beloved Hezbollah does not get the impression that the Islamic Republic is deviating from its position.

4. Supporting the deprived and the downtrodden—these backers of the revolution, the regime, and the Islamic Republic.

5. Preserving, Respecting, and following the representatives of the people and the Islamic Consultative Majles, this house of the nation and solid fortress of the revolution and the regime, and the guardian of independence, freedom, and the Islamic Republic.

The speaker added: His Eminence the imam (may his soul rest in heaven) said: "The Majles is the fruit of the blood of a crowd who were loyal to Islam and this Majles is the essence of the tiresome labors of this Muslim nation. Today, the Majles is the true home of the nation." Despite emphasis of his Eminence the late imam and the exalted leadership and various principles of the Constitution, including principles 84 and 86 of the Constitution that assert "deputies of the Majles, within the framework of fulfilling their duties as representatives, are free in their expression of views and votes and cannot be indicted or arrested as a result of views they express in the Majles or votes they have cast while fulfilling their duties as representatives", these days we witness moves aimed at eliminating the deputies of the faction that insists on continuation of the imam's line and the revolution.

Again he attacked the method of the Experts elections and said: Despite statements by the leader of the Islamic Revolution, regretfully, as I warned in my previous speech concerning the resolutions of the Assembly of Experts, the circumstances of the Experts elections prove that some hands have perilously tried and succeeded in eliminating the specific faction which was always favored by and subject to the kindness of His Eminence the imam, God's peace be upon him. This unrest does not end at the Assembly of Experts, but the same trend is active and aims to eliminate the loyal disciples of the revolution and the imam in other centers such as the Islamic Consultative Majles. I request from the exalted leadership, as His Eminence the imam, in order to safeguard the regime and our Islamic revolution, confront the domestic elements in a fatherly fashion and do not allow certain suspicious elements, liberal, or Hojjatiyeh, deceived or spiteful (disorder and objections from the deputies to the speaker's remarks), and hypocrites play with the values of the revolution deceitfully. (Disorder among the deputies.) The movement which today wishes to take revenge on the imam and the revolution by going after the children and the disciples of the imam, wishes to remove the obstacles from the path of their illegitimate goals—the removal of which the Combatant Clergy Association opposes. (Objections by the deputies to the speaker and the attempts of the chair to maintain the session.) Such popular characters of the people such as the likes of Karrubi, the students in the imam's line and the deputies in the imam's line who hinder such moves must be crushed. The Hezbollahi forces pose hindrance and therefore must be isolated and forced off the scene. The Islamic Consultative Majles poses a hindrance and it must be dissolved or condemned.

This movement must know that firstly, the Muslim nation of Iran is very alert and servants and children of the revolution....

(It should be mentioned that Mr. Mohtashemi's speech was disrupted as a result of serious objections by the deputies and the procedural warning of Mr. Movahhedi-Kermani concerning his remarks.)

Mr. Movahhedi-Kermani's procedural warning

In objection to Mr. Mohtashemi's pre-agenda remarks, Mr. Movahhedi-Kermani stated: Based on Article 81 of the Internal Guidelines of the Islamic Consultative Majles, the Majles deputies—in line with their responsibilities as deputies—consider themselves to be obligated and bound to maintain the honor of the Majles and the deputies, and consideration for order and sequence and the implementation of internal guidelines. In instances when, perhaps, a representative fails to consider the above obligations, the following actions, in sequence, may be taken by the Speaker and the Leadership Council:

1. Verbal notice

2. Warning

3. Reprimand and summoning the violator to appear in a meeting of the Leadership Council

He added: It has been emphasized in this article that the deputies are obligated and bound to maintain the honor and dignity of the Majles and if they do not do so, verbal notice, warning, and reprimand may be applied by the speaker, accordingly.

Mr. Movahhedi added: His Excellency, Mr. Karimi, I beg you to take notice. What dignity is left for the Majles? After the statements by the exalted leader of the revolution concerning the the Assembly of Experts to the effect that, "I have heard these talks from non other than Radio Israel, the Voice of America, and the Hypocrites radio." After such remarks, isn't it demeaning to the honor and prestige of the Majles when Mr. Mohtashemi so explicitly states such things?! Is there any honor left for the Majles?!

Mr. Movahhedi-Kermani added: Excellency Mr. Karrubi. The people shouted slogans, objected, cried "death to the anti-velayat-e faqih [rule of the supreme jurisconsult]" and they were going to congregate in front of the Majles but were dissuaded by the exalted leadership. I beseech you to put a halt to such matters in your position as the Speaker of the Majles.

'Ali Mohammad Ahmadi, the Representative of the People of Aligudarz: Newspapers and Propaganda Heralds Try To Blow Out of Proportion Some of the Internal, Usual, and Daily Affairs of the Majles (Statements by Deputies Who Spoke Worse Than the Radio Israel Commentator)

The third pre-agenda speaker during yesterday's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles was Mr. 'Ali Mohammad Ahmadi from the Aligudarz constituency.

After praising the sacred spirit of the late imam and the spirits of the martyrs, who fell in their blood in the path of Islamic values, and expressing his thanks for the statements of the exalted leadership urging the people to safeguard Islamic values, he began his remarks.

He added: We are on the verge of 4 November, the anniversary of the heroic occupation of the den of spies of the Great Satan America. The day that was described by the imam of the nation as a revolution greater than the first one. He then mentioned the name of the exalted leadership in the same category as some other individuals and said: I congratulate this anniversary to the exalted leadership, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Musavi-Kho'iniha, (continuing objections by the deputies in connection with Mr. Mohtashemi's speech), Engineer Asgharzadeh, and Engineer Aqa'i—presently Majles deputies—who played decisive roles in that incident and the Office for Strengthening Solidarity, the office which was formed with the permission of His Eminence the imam (continuing objections by the deputies and the chair's attempts to control and maintain the session) and his instruction. Also, I offer my congratulations to the alert nation of Iran, especially the university students who, side by side with the alert and revolutionary seminary students, have always been the scouts of the Islamic revolution.

He added: Muslim students in the line of the imam are sincerely and actively dedicated to the guidance of the great leader of the Islamic revolution, who considered the animosity against the Great Satan, America, a sacred cause and who constantly reminded the moderate politicians that, "America's relation with us is the wolf and sheep relation," and "all the problems of Muslims stem from America," and "America has planned for the next 50 years," and "unleash all your shouts against America." It was for this reason that the revolutionary and selfless Islamic students captured the den of spies of the Great Satan, America, and cause such a movement that the imam of the nation stated: "Once again there is a revolution in Iran, a revolution greater than the first one." Even later, one of the certain values on which the exalted leadership emphasized was the relentless struggle against America (continuing commotion by the deputies and Mr. Karrubi's attempts to maintain order) and the evil and criminal Zionism and considered it among the principal issue of the government and nation of Iran. He expressed his disgust towards the timidity of officials and politicians in Islamic countries in confronting America—this major supporter of Israel.

He added: In regard to the values which were emphasized by the exalted leadership in the meeting with the noble clergy, the imam of the nation, in his message to them, stated: "The dedicated clergy thirst for the blood of the leach-like capitalists and shall never reconcile with them. They were educated with piety and hardship and have continued to live with the same pious methods, poverty, and disregard for worldly luxuries, even after achieving high scholastic as well as moral degrees."

The war of right and wrong, the war of the oppressed and arrogance, the war of the bare-footed against the painless rich, are the ever-lasting struggles of values against immoralities. And continuing the message, he stated: "The beloved nation, who are the true and sincere fighters of Islamic values, have well realized that struggle does not coalesce with comfort-seeking.

Mr. Ahmadi added: Those who believe that struggle in the path of independence and freedom of the world's downtrodden and deprived is not contrary to capitalism and comfort-seeking are not familiar with the alphabet of struggle. (Pandemonium among many of the deputies.)

The representative of Aligudarz then attacked the newspapers for their resounding of the popular protest against the deputies who spoke more harshly than the commentator of Radio Israel from the podium of the Majles, and therefore were subjected to the criticism of the exalted leadership, and said: As a Majles deputy, I express my displeasure concerning the trends which are perpetrated by political groups and are publicized by newspapers and propaganda heralds in attempts to dilute (pandemonium among the deputies) an important part of the repeated messages of the exalted leadership—in regard to aiding the innocent Palestinian Muslims—and, knowing or unknowing, are effectively helping Israel and America. They are forgetting the most vicious and inhumane crimes of the Zionists, with the unequivocal support of America and the behind-the-scenes trend that is ignoring the guidance of His Excellency against America and its backers, by blowing out of proportion the usual and daily issues and involving specific and known groups (against his wishes) in direct confrontation against the most exalted and legal institution. Instead of resolving the economic disorder and social ills with the knowledge and aid of the government, they continue to add to the load of difficulties. Yes, how can these individuals who closed down the Majles on Sunday, and later—in one of their newspapers—offered an excuse which was worse than the act itself, consider their action separate from the Hypocrites, Israelis, and Americans? Aren't these worse than the obvious example of Israel, as was described by the imam of the nation and also the exalted leadership?

(Slogans of "death to America," "death to Israel," and "death to the anti-velayat-e faqih" by the deputies.)

The Islamic Consultative Majles Speaker's Remarks

After the statements of the pre-agenda speakers, in his remarks, Mr. Karrubi offered his congratulations on the occasion of the birthday of Imam Hasan Asgari (peace be upon him) and expressed hope that we can act in accordance with the best meaning of expressions of the Holy Imams.

The Majles speaker referred to the decisive and smashing remarks of the exalted leadership on the Wednesday of the previous week and said:

The remarks of the exalted leadership, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, were the cause of joy and jubilation for all of us. Also, the principals of the regime of the Islamic Republic are based on velayat-e faqih, and those responsible in all of the regime's institutions have been inspired by leadership and velayat. Toward the end of the imam's life, as a result of certain events and occasional murmurs concerning the correction of the Constitution and the absence of a need for leadership and velayat, in his letter to the Constitutional Reevaluation Committee, the imam wrote: "In this world filled with twists and turns, trickery, and politics, our system cannot be left without a guardian." Therefore, the guide of the regime, the government, and all our institutions is our leader and imam. Those who are in favor of the revolution, thank God, have no argument in this regard. However, I must mention to all the friends that, if there is a difference in style and there are some discussions, our dear and gracious friends should not be prone to accuse one another that, God forbid, such and such person, group, or association has problems with velayat and leadership or, as is customarily known, are "anti-velayat-e faqih". I consider this slogan to be truly detrimental. Velayat-e faqih—with the prophet-like leadership of the imam, with the intellect and jurisprudence of the imam—has so deeply been ingrained in our society that there is no room for discussion.

Mr. Karrubi added: In discussions that are taking place here and there, I have said it once and shall repeat again, God forbid, there should not be any mention of the expression "anti-velayat-e faqih" in order to settle political differences and in the clashes among the differing factions. If such discussions and talks continue, then one may have to reveal certain past issues and conversations, complete with names and particulars, such as who said what in connection with the leadership, the imam, and the Council of Guardians. Therefore, we must all remain steadfast and firm behind our leader and united and side-by-side safeguard the Islamic Republic regime. I assure the exalted leadership that the Majles considers itself obedient to the leader; his orders must be obeyed and all the deputies are subjects of the exalted leadership.

In connection with the Islamic Consultative Majles, he said: We sincerely thank the exalted leadership for his kindness and graciousness toward the Islamic Consultative Majles and for describing the high plateau of greatness and eminence of the Majles by stating that the Majles is the hope of the nation. As our glorious imam, God's peace be upon him, repeatedly—in private as well as in public—praised the Islamic Consultative Majles and offered various comments in connection with the

Majles—i.e., "this Majles is the product of 'God is great' [slogans]," "the Majles is the essence of the people's grace," "the Majles is the harvest of the blood of martyrs," "whatever is approved by the Majles and endorsed by the Council of Guardians is the law, we must be subject to it and no one has the right to object," and "after the leadership, the Majles is a gigantic base for safeguarding the achievements of the revolution." Here, I must remind friends, supporters of the revolution, good and pious people, and, God forbid, those who have ulterior motives, that they must pay heed and refrain from speaking or acting against the Majles, which may result in its weakness. Vulnerability of the Majles will certainly result in the vulnerability of the regime, and this will not be tolerated by the regime, the people, and the leadership. Here and there, in various circles and speeches, we have heard that some of the dear, gracious, and even well known brothers have made some remarks about the Majles, which were not at all expected. We hope that such issues are considered as mistakes and, God willing, all of us can persevere to strengthen, stabilize, and support the Islamic Consultative Majles.

Also in this connection, Mr. Karrubi pointed out: These days, articles and writings, and even speeches, are being written or heard in connection with the Majles, which I find necessary to mention here. As the exalted leadership stated and I shall repeat, the Majles possesses certain freedoms and rights, which it must utilize. However, the limit and boundaries of these rights are determined and marked. The Majles has the right to question and interpellate. (I am speaking in general terms. Personally—at the time when I was a simple deputy, when I was the deputy speaker and now—I have discouraged those who wanted to question.) The Majles has the right to investigate, to study, and to supervise, and it is the right of the deputies to be able to speak on behalf of their constituents—of course, within the framework that has been determined by the Constitution. Our dear and gracious brother, for whom I have great respect (without any reservation or obligation), His Eminence Ayatollah Yazdi, chief of the judicial branch, made some remarks in the Friday prayer in Tehran—to which I shall give my response at an appropriate time. I consider discussions about the issue of legality, or illegality, of pre-agenda speeches in the Majles or their compliance or noncompliance with the Constitution as very dangerous and difficult to debate. Of course, it is one thing to suggest it as a legal plan in its appropriate form—since he was the Majles deputy for two terms, a jurist member of the Council of Guardians, and is, presently, chief of the judicial branch. However, bringing this subject up under the present circumstances and during the Friday Prayer is quite dubious and suspect.

Also, in connection with the Leadership Council of the Majles, Mr. Karrubi said: These days we witness attacks against the Leadership Council in the headlines of some newspapers and publications. I consider all of these aimed at weakening the Majles—even though with best of intentions. It would be nice to resolve the issues through dialogue and discussion. The Leadership Council is the selection of the deputies and you.... Freely and without exertion of influence, you have elected the Leadership Council. Those who get the vote are your selections, and you are all obligated to cooperate with them. Of course, no one is free from fault, mistake, or discrepancy. Many time, under the past leadership and now, you have offered notices to us. We have welcomed them and tried to ensure that the job is done correctly. It is my belief that the Leadership Council of the Majles must be such that it takes on a reconciling role—although it is from two factions. Any how, you know best and the vote and decision belies you. The Majles has not done anything to infringe upon the rights of a group to participate. Thank God, the guidelines of the Majles are such that all can participate. Even these esteemed brother from the religious minority can become candidates for membership in the Leadership Council. If they can get enough votes, they also can join the Leadership Council. It is not like other places where they are barred from joining altogether—with or without the votes. Here, everyone is included. Even this Dr. Nikruz can announce his candidacy and get the votes and, if I am still the speaker of the Majles, I shall welcome him and will be at his service.

He added: Some friends have intensified their affection for us. To some extent, they have pushed the issue of the Leadership Council to the point that, "well, when Mr. Hashemi [Rafsanjani] was here he dealt with rumors in such and such a way." You know this development, we know this, and all the people know it as well. Our friendship with Mr. Hashemi is a continuous and long lasting one, going back at least 30 years. In prison, outside prison, in struggles, in responsibilities, in our positions after the revolution, concerning the issues and the sedition of liberals and the Hypocrites we stood side by side and were of the same mind.... However, I explicitly state here that it is necessary that we support Mr. Hashemi everywhere. As far as I am concerned, such impressions that Mr. Hashemi was so and.... You see, Mr. Hashemi is His Excellency Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and I am His Excellency Mr. Karrubi-Aligudarzi. He is one person and I am one. I do my job and he does his. I have a responsibility and he has a responsibility as well and I, as a Lor, will not feel indignant or become agitated and nor will I feel belittled as a result of such statements. We do our own work, have our own criteria and styles. Although, we possess similar styles. However, if one thinks that such things and...interpretations account for anything, if one thinks that I feel belittled, the response is no. When Mr. Hashemi was the Majles speaker, he used to act as you know, and I act accordingly. Sometimes, we quell rumors as he used to do. At times we cannot, we do not have the right, as you well know for the sake of solidarity to prevent questions...to prevent interpellatrons...to avoid conflict...I act in accordance with my duty. However, it is not correct that our dear friends act in such a way. It is not wise and not right that in the meantime they throw a punch at the Majles speaker or the Leadership Council.

Mr. Karrubi added: I tell you dear friends that such things or such behavior will break down the walls. Tomorrow, someone may say something to the president or another to the chief of the judiciary. It cannot be so with double standards, and naturally such matters will come up.

In conclusion, Mr. Karrubi stated: The Majles is at the service of the revolution and the leader, as His Eminence previously stated (before his last speech) that, if there are discussions, they are discussions of brotherhood and we hope that the dear deputies, be they from one faction or from both, those who have said things or not, God willing, reconsider, review, and correct their statements. God willing, we shall not have any issues in the future that may cause the displeasure of the leadership and the officials. All of us, both sides and both factions, must be watchful and careful of our words and sentences and the sentiments of the dear people. And all must indeed rely on the people. The nation is great, and all that there is belongs to the nation. The nation has a thought and intellect and certainly all, in unison, are fully obedient to the leader.

Edicts

The report of RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent on yesterday's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles indicates that the continuation of the investigation of the plan to punish saboteurs of the national economic system, which was returned by the Council of Guardians, was the first item on the agenda of yesterday's session of the Majles. The amended Article Two of this plan was put to a vote and was approved.

According to Article Two of this plan, any of the acts stated in paragraphs of the previous article, if committed whilst aimed at striking against the regime of Islamic Republic of Iran and to the extent of corruption on earth or design as a means to confront the regime or with the knowledge of the act being effective in confrontation of the regime, the culprit shall be sentenced to execution or, otherwise, to imprisonment from five to 20 years. In both cases, the court shall issue a decree to confiscate, as fines, all belongings which are acquired unlawfully.

In addition to fines and imprisonment, the court can sentence the culprit to from 20 to 74 lashes in public.

Note One: In instances where sedition is not the subject of any of the aforementioned instances in the six paragraphs of the single article and, accordingly, it is not substantial or large or numerous, the culprit shall be sentenced to between two to five years imprisonment and confiscation of all possessions acquired as a result of the legal violations as fines.

Note Two: In instances when the activities mentioned in paragraphs of Article One of this law are committed by a person or legal persons—be they private or public or institutions or cooperatives and others—the individual or individuals who knowingly and deliberately aided or participated in the implementation of such acts or participated in them in any shape or form—taking into consideration if their activity(ies) are related to the first or the second part of Article Two of this line—shall be sentenced in accordance with the punishment herein prescribed in this article. In these instances, manager or managers and inspector or inspectors or, in general, appropriate official or officials who, in any way, may be aware or be informed of all or part of the aforementioned activities are obligated to take immediate and effective actions in order to prevent or inform individuals or officials who are capable of halting such activities. Those who refrain from the implementation of the prescribed obligation or, with their silence, aid and abet in the commission of the crime, shall be considered as accomplices and shall be, accordingly, sentenced to the punishment prescribed for the accomplice.

Note Three: The punishment for initiating the crime subject of this article shall be one to three years imprisonment and a cash fine of 500,000 rials to 5,000,000 rials. The punishment for initiating the crime subject of the last part of this note shall be six months to two years imprisonment and a cash fine of 250,000 rials to 2,500,000 rials. The punishment for initiating the crime subject of Note One of this article shall be six months to eighteen months imprisonment and a cash fine of 200,000 rials to 1,000,000 rials.

Note Four: Those who commit the crimes subject of this article and its notes One through Three and all accomplices and and deputies in any one of the aforementioned crimes shall be, in addition to the aforementioned punishments, permanently barred and/or discharged from government service.

Note Five: None of the punishments prescribed in this law may be suspended and, also, execution, financial fines, barring, and permanent discharge from service in the government and institutions may not be reduced by the courts.

Note Six: Investigation of all the crimes mentioned in this law is within the jurisdiction of the appropriate magistrates and courts of the Islamic revolution. In regard to the crimes subject of Article One of this law, the said magistrates and courts are obligated to investigate immediately and out of turn.

Note Seven: As of the effective date of this law, all laws in contradiction to it—except those laws which prescribe harsher punishments than those prescribed in this law—shall be null and void.

According to this report, the second item on the agenda during yesterday's session was the legal plan for the necessity for re-education and apprenticeship of members of the national medical society and elevation of their knowledge of medical science. After investigation and discussions by the deputies, the experimental implementation of this plan for a period of five years was approved.

Also, the report of the first round of deliberations of the commerce and distribution affairs commission, concerning the generalities of the bill of export and import regulations, was discussed by the deputies in yesterday's session. Continuation of the investigation of this bill, however, was postponed until the next open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles.

The Islamic Consultative Majles will hold an open session tomorrow morning.

Nepal & Bhutan

Nepal

Civil Servants Strike for Wage Increases

100,000 Demonstrate

BK1412150790 Hong Kong AFP in English 1428 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Dec 14 (AFP)—More than 100,000 civil servants from all ranks observed a token two-hour strike Friday to demand salary increases, sources in the Nepalese capital said.

The strikers stayed away from work from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. (0420 to 0620 GMT), and a spokesman for the Nepal Civil Servant Coordination Committee (NCSCC) said they would add one hour daily from Sunday and strike for seven hours next Thursday.

The move came a day after civil servants donned black armbands and staged a one-hour pen-down strike.

"Our demands are simple—we want increment in our allowances and some fringe benefits as enjoyed by the rank-and-file employees of state-run corporations, whose lowest-level staff are getting more salary and privileges than a second-class" civil servant, the NCSCC spokesman said.

If their demands were unmet by December 20, the civil servants would take to the streets in protest, he added.

The interim government headed by Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai Wednesday formed a coordination committee to be chaired by the chief cabinet secretary and including the NCSCC to address the issue, a government spokesman said.

Meanwhile, employees of the Nepal Rastra (Central) Bank and Nepal Bank Ltd., the country's largest and oldest public bank, also struck Friday after observing a token strike Thursday.

They are demanding permanent jobs for all temporary and probationary staff and better salaries and training for full employees, sources said.

But a senior Finance Ministry official said: "The public exchequer is not in a position to increase any salary or facilities of the civil, military, police and other (public) employees after a 28 percent average salary" increase in April.

That rise had incurred an additional financial burden of 56.7 million dollars, bringing to 233.3 million dollars annual government expenditure on salaries, pensions and benefits of public employees.

Government Warns Against Strikes

BK1512100090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0837 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Dec 15 (AFP)—Nepal's interim government has told restive civil servants to stay out of politics and warned them against striking or taking to the streets to press for pay increases, state radio said Saturday.

A cabinet meeting Friday chaired by Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai issued a statement carried on state radio saying "irresponsible and undisciplined" actions by civil servants were not in their long-term interest.

It also accused certain former officials of Nepal's ousted single-party government of trying to destabilise democracy and forthcoming general elections.

"Some notorious, highly privileged and corrupt officers and employees of the previous system are trying to mislead the employees who have always remained neutral and dutiful," the state broadcast said.

"These elements are also trying to create an atmosphere of undiscipline as part of their conspiracy to discredit the multiparty system and put the administrative machinery out of order by using the employees' demands," the cabinet secretariat said.

The cabinet statement said civil servants could make their demands through their coordination committee and added that they were privileged compared to the general public.

The statement follows industrial action by more than 100,000 civil servants, who observed a token two-hour strike Friday to demand increased salaries and benefits.

A spokesman for the Nepal Civil Servant Coordination Committee said they would add one hour daily from Sunday and strike for seven hours Thursday after which civil servants would take to the streets.

Finance ministry sources said civil servants' pay was increased by an average 28 per cent last April, increasing government spending of five billion rupees (170 million dollars) by 1.7 billion rupees (56.66 million dollars).

More Strikes Promised

BK1612123290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1225 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Dec 16 (AFP)—Nepalese civil servants struck for three hours Sunday, despite government warnings against taking industrial action, a civil service source here said.

Employees from all ministries—including the Finance, Foreign and Home and Communications Ministries—and the Prime Minister's Office joined the strike, the source said.

More than 100,000 civil servants also observed a token two-hour strike Friday to demand increased salaries and benefits.

A spokesman for the Nepal Civil Servant Coordination Committee (NCSCC) has said they would add one hour daily from Sunday and strike for seven hours Thursday after which civil servants would take to the streets.

Nepal's interim government issued a statement carried on state radio Saturday telling civil servants to stay out of politics and warning them against strikes or demonstrations for pay increases.

Civil servants were surprised at the interim government's "strong warning," an NCSCC spokesman said Sunday.

Strike Enters Fourth Day

BK1712104690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1022 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Dec 17 (AFP)—A civil servants' strike resumed for a fourth day Monday as strikers gathered outside the Ministry of General Administration to press for increased salary and benefits during a four-hour work stoppage.

The strike was called by the Nepal Civil Servants Association Central Coordination Committee, which urged Nepal's civil servants below the rank of joint secretary to join in.

The interim government headed by Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai is reluctant to discipline those it sees as the strike's ringleaders who are pressuring other employees to join in, a government spokesman said.

A cabinet meeting Friday chaired by Mr. Bhattarai had issued a statement saying "irresponsible and undisciplined" actions by civil servants were not in their long-term interest.

It also accused certain former officials of Nepal's ousted non- party government of trying to destabilise democracy and upcoming general elections.

Some 100,000 civil servants are involved in the strike, which began with a two-hour work stoppage on Friday, followed by a three- hour strike on Sunday.

A strike committee spokesman said they would add one hour daily, and strike for seven hours Thursday, after which civil servants would take to the streets.

Meanwhile Monday, the Nepali Congress, the United Left Front (ULF) and Janta Dal (Socialist Democratic Party) appealed to the strikers to resume their normal duties and negotiate with the government.

Basu Risal, a Nepali Congress spokesman, warned the strikers, "otherwise the government will ... Undertake strike action."

"No government can excuse the civil servants indulged in indisciplined and undesirable activities under the inspiration of reactionary forces," Mr. Risal said, adding that the civil servants were putting excessive pressure on the government in view of Nepal's ailing economy.

Sahana Pradhan, ULF chairman and Nepal's industry and trade minister, however urged the government to adopt a "positive attitude" towards the employees' demands.

At the same time, she called on the workers to resolve issues through talks.

The Janta Dal appealed to the employees to end their protest and help assure law and order in Nepal.

Janta Dal Chairman Keshar Jung Rayamajhi, Nepal's minister for education and culture, lauded the civil servants' role in restoring democracy in Nepal.

However, noting that the government had rewarded civil servants with an average pay rise of 28 per cent immediately after the non- party Panchayat system was dismantled in April, Dr. Rayamajhi warned that they "will lose the goodwill and sympathy of the people if they continue with their protest."

Pakistan

Indian Foreign Secretary Arrives for Visit 17 Dec

BK1712132990 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] The Indian foreign secretary, Mr. Muchkund Dubey, arrived in Islamabad this afternoon on a four-day visit. He will be having talks with the Pakistani foreign secretary, Mr. Shahryar.

Foreign Secretaries on Relations

BK1712155390 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] The foreign secretaries of Pakistan and India have expressed the hope that there will be meaningful talks between them to normalize relations, promote understanding, and to remove those obstacles that lie in the way of improving relations between the two countries. They said this while speaking to newsmen at Islamabad airport this evening.

The talks between the two foreign secretaries will begin tomorrow.

Speaking to newsmen, Indian Foreign Secretary Muchkund Dubey, who arrived in Islamabad this evening, said that although no agenda has been set for the talks, all issues which affect bilateral relations would be considered.

Expressing similar views, Pakistani Foreign Secretary Shahryar Khan said they would exchange views on the basis of the extremely positive talks held between the prime ministers of the two countries during the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit in Male.

Talks Begin 18 Dec

BK1812082990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] The two-day secretary level talks between India and Pakistan began in Islamabad this morning. The foreign secretary, Mr. Muchkund Dubey, who is leading the Indian delegation, held one round of discussions with his Pakistani counterpart, Mr. Shahryar Khan, who is heading the Pakistani delegation. Our Islamabad correspondent understands that the first session was held in a cordial atmosphere and another session is to be held this afternoon. Our correspondent also further understands that the entire gamut of bilateral relations between India and Pakistan are being taken up during the talks. Mr. Dubey told our correspondent that the endeavor is to keep confidence-building measures that will result in reducing tension between the two countries and bring about normalization of relations. The third session of talks is scheduled for tomorrow.

Minister Says Over 1,000 Arrested in Sindh

BK1712161690 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Excerpts] The National Assembly began its regular session in Islamabad today. [passage omitted] The interior minister informed the house that 1,184 persons have been arrested so far for law and order reasons. Of these, 1,138 persons have been arrested from Sindh, 46 from Punjab and two from Baluchistan. In reply to a question, the interior minister said licenses of 6,175 automatic and prohibited-bore weapons have been canceled due to noncompliance with legal procedures. He made it clear that a ban has been imposed on the issuance of licenses for probited-bore weapons. [passage omitted]

IJI Decries Atrocities on Indian Muslims

BK1812103990 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] The Islami Jamhoori Ittehad [IJI] Parliamentary Party has expressed deep concern over the brutal killings of the Muslims by the Hindu extremists on the issue of the construction of a temple after tearing down the Babri mosque in India. In a statement issued in Islamabad, the parliamentary party said that the Indian Muslims are being massacred, and this issue is becoming grievous. The statement says that the atrocities committed on the Muslim minority are a flagrant violation of the declaration of human rights and the basic principles of the UN Charter. The meeting has urged the United Nations [word indistinct] and all countries, especially those under the Islamic Conference Organization, to pressure the Indian Government to stop immediately the series of atrocities being committed on the Indian Muslims.

Army Contingent Leaves for Saudi Arabia 17 Dec

BK1712162990 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] A contingent of 320 Pak Army officers and jawans [soldiers] left for Saudi Arabia this afternoon. The contingent is part of the infantry brigade comprising 5,000 troops scheduled to go to Saudi Arabia. Two thousand troops reached there early in September. In the second phase, which started today, the remaining 3,000 troops are scheduled to go to Saudi Arabia daily in two flights each consisting of 320 troops by Saudi Airlines.

Mujahidin Launch Counterattack in Konduz Province

BK1412150090 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 14 Dec 90 p 5

[Text] Islamabad, Dec. 13—Afghan Mujahidin blunted an attack by Kabul regime's forces, led by communist provincial commander of Balkh Province, Jumah Assack in Alchin District, Booz and Shahmhmooj villages [placenames as received] Konduz Province, on Dec. 10.

According to Midia [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN] reports Mujahidin launched counter attack and killed at least 26 militiamen and soldiers and burning two tanks and one military vehicle. About 22 Mujahids were martyred and 18 others sustained injuries during that attack, the reports added.

About 73 locals, including children and woman were martyred and 200 residential houses were razed to the ground due to the firing of the enemy with heavy machinegun and artillery fire. Fighting is still continuing between the Mujahidin and the communists in the area, the reports added.

Meanwhile, the Mujahidin carried out an operation on the Kabul regime's posts in Dasht-e Archi District of the said province early last week. As a result, two posts were destroyed, numerous militiamen and soldiers were killed and four captured alive.

The Mujahidin have also taken one grenov and three Kalashnikov rifles as booty along with a huge quantity of ammunition, the reports added.

According to another report, a number of militiamen and soldiers were killed or injured and 150k assorted weapons were captured along with a huge quantity of ammunition when the Mujahidin attacked the Kabul regime's posts in Qurrah Gashi area of Khvaja Khar District [placenames as received] of Takhar Province, on Dec. 3.

The attack was conducted by Commander Engr. Mohammad Omar, the report concluded.

The Midia report said that the Mujahidin also attack the security posts of Kabul regime atop the Tira Pass of Paktia last week, killing six officers and soldiers and destroying one tank.

According to another report, the Mujahidin launched a surprise attack on the Gardeyz army division, killing four officers and destroying one army jeep and an ammunition storage dump on Dec. 9. The report added that an assortion to weapons [as published] was also held by the Mujahidin.

The Afghan Mujahidin in a commando attack on the Bozorg [word illegible] of Herat, also seized six agents of Khad, including Farooq Jamzan, their ring-leader on Dec. 7, a source of the Mujahidin's front in the southwest of Afghanistan said.

The seizure included about 100 kalashnikov rifles, two rpg-7 anti-armour rocket launchers, one grenade launcher and a number of grenov sub-machineguns. Sporadic fighting has also been reported between the Mujahidin and communist mercenaries.

The Mujahidin also repulsed communist forces attack on the Mujahidin's strongholds in the vicinity of the Shir Khan Konduz highway on Dec. 10 in a bid to open the highway which in the past served as the supply route of the regime from the Soviet Union.

Mujahidin killed 30 mercenaries of the regime and destroyed one tank and an army vehicle.

The report said that five Mujahids were martyred and 15 injured.

Sri Lanka

China's Li Calls for Arab Involvement in Gulf

BK1812004690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1716 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] Colombo, Dec 17 (AFP)—Visiting Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng opened official talks here Monday with President Ranasinghe Premadasa calling for greater Arab involvement in settling the Gulf crisis, a senior aide said.

The two leaders, who held a 110-minute meeting, stressed the need for a peaceful settlement with greater Arab participation, spokesman Bradman Weerakoon said.

"A military conflict (in the Gulf) would have catastrophic consequences and both sides underlined the need to do everything possible for a peaceful resolution," he said after the talks.

Mr. Weerakkon, Mr. Premadasa's foreign relations advisor, said the two leaders did not discuss possible solutions in the Gulf except to call for greater Arab participation.

Political analysts here viewed the call as a reiteration of Beijing's reluctance to see U.S.-led multinational forces in the Gulf go to war with Iraq to free Kuwait.

Sri Lanka is among countries hardest-hit economically as a result of Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait, where nearly 100,000 Sri Lankans were employed.

Mr. Premadasa also told Mr. Li that Colombo's relations with neighbouring India were strained because of support for Sri Lankan Tamil militants in the south Indian state of Tamil Nadu.

But New Delhi has said Indian soil should not be allowed for anti-Sri Lanka activities and that approach would be the basis for "broadening and deepening" bilateral relations, Mr. Weerakoon said.

Mr. Li told Mr. Premadasa that Beijing's relations with New Delhi were also improving following a visit to China by former Indian premier Rajiv Gandhi a few years ago.

The Chinese leader said he had planned to visit India after Sri Lanka but postponed the trip because of "domestic preoccupations in India."

India and China fought a brief war over a border dispute in 1962.

Mr. Premadasa thanked Mr. Li for allowing Colombo to "commercially procure military hardware from China" in fighting Tamil guerrillas in the island's Northeast, Mr. Weerakoon said.

China granted a 9.37 million dollar interest-free loan to Sri Lanka to be used in the next five years, he said, the same amount given during the five-year period to December 1990.

Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Harold Herat and his Chinese Counterpart Qian Qichen are expected to sign a memorandum of understanding on the aid package Tuesday.

Mr. Li is here on the final leg of an official tour of four Asian countries that has taken him to Kuala Lumpur, Manila and Vientiane.

Security Force Chiefs Killed by Landmine

BK1812100490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0955 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] Colombo, Dec 18 (AFP)—Two top security force chiefs were killed Tuesday in a landmine blast believed to have been triggered by Tamil rebels in eastern Sri Lanka, military sources here said.

They said Brigadier-General Lakshman Wijeratne, brigade commander of the Trincomalee District, and Police Senior Superintendent Richard Wijesekera were killed when their vehicle hit the landmine near Morawewa in Trincomalee.

The mine, believed planted by Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrillas, was also believed to have killed at least three other passengers in the military vehicle, the sources said.

The two officers were the highest ranking to be killed in the on-going separatist conflict between government troops and the LTTE which broke out anew on June 11 in the island's Tamil-dominated northeast.

The LTTE has vowed to drive out the Army from the northeast and set up an independent Tamil homeland called Eelam. The rebels have stepped up their attacks on military targets during the past month, killing a number of soldiers.

'Unprecedented Violence' in Parliament 15 Dec

BK1612114090 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0910 GMT 16 Dec 90

["OANA/Pool item"]

[Text] Colombo, 16 Dec (LANKAPUVATH)—Unprecedented violence erupted in the House yesterday, when seasoned parliamentarians exchanged blows and hurled abuse at each other. They could not be restrained by Mr. Weerasinghe Mallimarachchi (Minister of Food) and Mr. Halim Ishak (SLFP) [Sri Lanka Freedom Party] who threw in their might to separate the fighters. The SUNDAY OBSERVER states about fifty MP's [members of parliament] from both sides of the House were in the pit aiming blows at the ones nearest to them. Mr. Hemantha Nanayakkara (SLFP), the prime mover in the attack, began the melee by pummeling the sergeant-at-arms, Mr. Ronnie Abeysinghe. At this point, the government MP's moved in with Mr. G.M. Premachandra, minister for labour and vocational training, turning Mr. Nanayakkara around and throwing blows at him to divert attacks from Mr. Ronnie Abeysinghe. This gave Mr. Abeysinghe the chance to run away with the mace and stand just in front of the speaker's entrance. In the meantime, the entire opposition and government MP's who were in the House joined in the free-for-all. The only exceptions were Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali (Minister of Education) who stood aghast with his finger in the mouth, and Mr. Gamini Dissanayake (UNP) [United National Party] who lounged leisurely with arms thrown around the neighbour's chair, the SLMC [Sri Lanka Muslim Congress] MP's, and the ladies.

The House was unruly throughout the day. Violence erupted when the deputy speaker, Mr. Gamini Fonseka, recalled the House for the third time. He had suspended the House for twenty minutes but he recalled the House within fifteen minutes. The House was intending to pass the Provincial Council Bill before twelve noon. Then Mr. C.V. Gooneratne (SLFP) raised a point of order saying that the House cannot resume sittings until the twenty minutes was up. The deputy speaker overruled him saying that if the House was in agreement sittings could be resumed. Mr. Dinesh Gunawardene (MEP) [Mahajana Eksath Peramuna] said that this was unfair as their members were on the way. The deputy speaker decided to go ahead.

It was at this point Mr. Gunawardena looked in the direction of Mr. Hamantha Nanayakkara (SLFP) and walked down to the pit of the House with the opposition following them. Mr. Nanayakkara headed straight to grab the mace. But the sergeant-at-arms grappled with Mr. Nanayakkara to keep the mace in the House. If Mr. Nanayakkara ran away with the mace the House would have had to adjourn automatically. Mr. Nanayakkara was pummelling the sergeant-at-arms to grab the mace, obviously with the intention of suspending sittings.

Tempers were rising as both sides joined to back their cause in the pit of the House. The deputy speaker, in the meantime, suspended sittings and he vacated the chair. But the MP's, disregarding what was said by the chair, continued their bashing.

Mr. Gamini Lokuge, state minister for tourism, scored a bull's eye when he slapped the youngest member of the House, Mr. Janak Mahinda Adikari (SLFP). It was a mass of hand flying in all directions. Mr. Dinesh Gunawardena [and] Mr. C.V. Gooneratne were in the middle of the fight exchanging blows with ministers and state ministers. Mr. Premachandra, who is rather short, found his blows landing on the stomach of tall Mr. Hemantha Nanayakkara.

By 1143 [0613 GMT], the melee had subsided. Both sides withdrew to their seats. But they continued to hurl abuse at each other from their seats. The sergeant-at-arms brought the mace in and the House resumed sitting again at 1155. When the deputy speaker announced the next bill, which was on power and energy, Mr. Nanayakkara shouted that no vote was taken on the Provincial Council Bill. Mr. Stanley Tillekeratne (SLFP) raising a point of order said that the secretary-general of parliament must read the titles one by one and be recorded on tape. The deputy speaker said it was done. But this was challenged by Mr. Tillekeratne. The deputy speaker suspended sittings for the fourth time till after lunch.

Minister Gives Briefing on Security Situation

BK1412115990 Colombo International Service in English 1600 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] No LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] leader whoever he may be will be able to deviate off from our course of action. If they think they could do so, they are sadly mistaken. With the new recruits now being trained, the security situation in the provinces has been strengthened. This was stated by the minister of plantation industries and state minister for defense, Ranjan Wijeratne, when he addressed the weekly news briefing on the present situation in the war-stricken areas of the country today. The news conference was held at the parliament complex.

Referring to the incident at the Vipulananda Mahavidyalaya refugee camp, the day before yesterday, Mr. Wijeratne said following information that LTTE cadres were in that camp, the Special Task Force [STF] visited that camp, whereupon they were attacked by the LTTE terrorists who had mingled with the refugees. They were attacked with grenades. The STF retaliated, killing four terrorists. Two injured had taken cyanide. One of them had been identified as Thevan, the LTTE leader of Attapalan, and the other as the LTTE leader of Malwatte. Nine grenades were also recovered from the scene. He also said that the estimated figure of terrorists killed was 2,500 and the number wounded 1,750 up to date.

Responding to a question, the minister said that the Muslim youths had shown much interest in joining the forces. They were not coming in their numbers as expected. He said that they should make up eight percent of the armed forces and the police. He called upon the Muslim youths to join as home guards. PLOTE [People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam], TELO [Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization] and the EPDP [Eelam People's Democratic Party] have also been requested to get in their cadres as home guards as the Tamil population should make up 18 percent of the forces.

Responding to another question, Mr. Wijeratne said there was information that the leader of the JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna], Somawalsa Amarasinghe, was in India and that an army officer had helped to flee the country.

The minister pointed out that the government of the Republic of Maldives had an appeal to take back 53 of the 68 Sri Lankans who are at present in custody due to the coup attempt in the Maldives. The president is expected to take a decision on this matter and once it is done the course of action would also be decided.

Commission To Review Organizations' Activities

BK1512121190 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Excerpt] President Ranasinghe Premadasa has appointed a commission to inquire into and report on all aspects of the activities of nongovernmental organizations [NGO's] functioning in Sri Lanka. This follows a report of the committee appointed by the Ministry of Policy Planning and Implementation, which said that about 3,000 NGO's—both local and foreign—are functioning in Sri Lanka today. It has been reported that no framework has been established to monitor their activities and the funding for the NGO's. Further it has been reported that some of the funds received by certain NGO's from foreign sources as well as those generated locally are allegedly being misappropriated and are being used for activities prejudicial to national security, public order, and economic interest, and for activities deterimental to the maintenance of ethnic, religious, and cultural harmony among the people of Sri Lanka. The commissioners are expected to inquire and report on the activities and the funding of NGO's. They have been empowered to examine and report on the provisions of law, if any, which have been promulgated to monitor and regulate the activities and the funding of such organizations. The terms of reference include inquiring into the institutional arrangements, which are currently in existence, and for monitoring and regulating the activities of NGO's.

The presidential commission will report as to whether any of the funds received from foreign sources as well as generated locally have been misappropriated or are being used for activities prejudicial to national security and the inadequacy or otherwise of the existing provisions of law. The commission's mandate includes inquiring into the misuse of funds for purposes other than the declared objectives of each such organization. The former judge of the Supreme Court, R.S. Wanasundera, is the chairman of the presidential commission. [passage omitted]